BLAME!™

1

Tsutomu Nihei

TOKYOPOP®

Tsutomu Nihei

Although Tsutomu Nihei has made a name for himself in the U.S. comic book industry with his highly lauded, moody Wolverine mini-series *Snikt*, his seminal work is *BLAME!*, a long-running science fiction epic set in a post-apocalyptic urban landscape. Nihei was born in 1971. It wasn't until he began studying architecture in college that he chose to pursue a life in manga, landing a position on the editorial staff of *Afternoon Monthly*, published by Kodansha. It wasn't long before he was enlisted to be an assistant to *Jiraishin* creator Takahashi Tsutomu. In 1998 he published his first work, *BLAME!*, which ran in the pages of *Afternoon Monthly*. He admits a strong influence from French comic strips, and his first passion, architecture, plays a prominent role in rendering the backgrounds in his elaborate settings.

BLAME!

Volume One

by Tsutomu Nihei

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

BLAME! Vol. 1

created by Tsutomu Nihei

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A TOKYOPOP® Manga

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MAYBE ON EARTH.
MAYBE IN THE FUTURE.

BLAME!

TSUTOMU NIHEI

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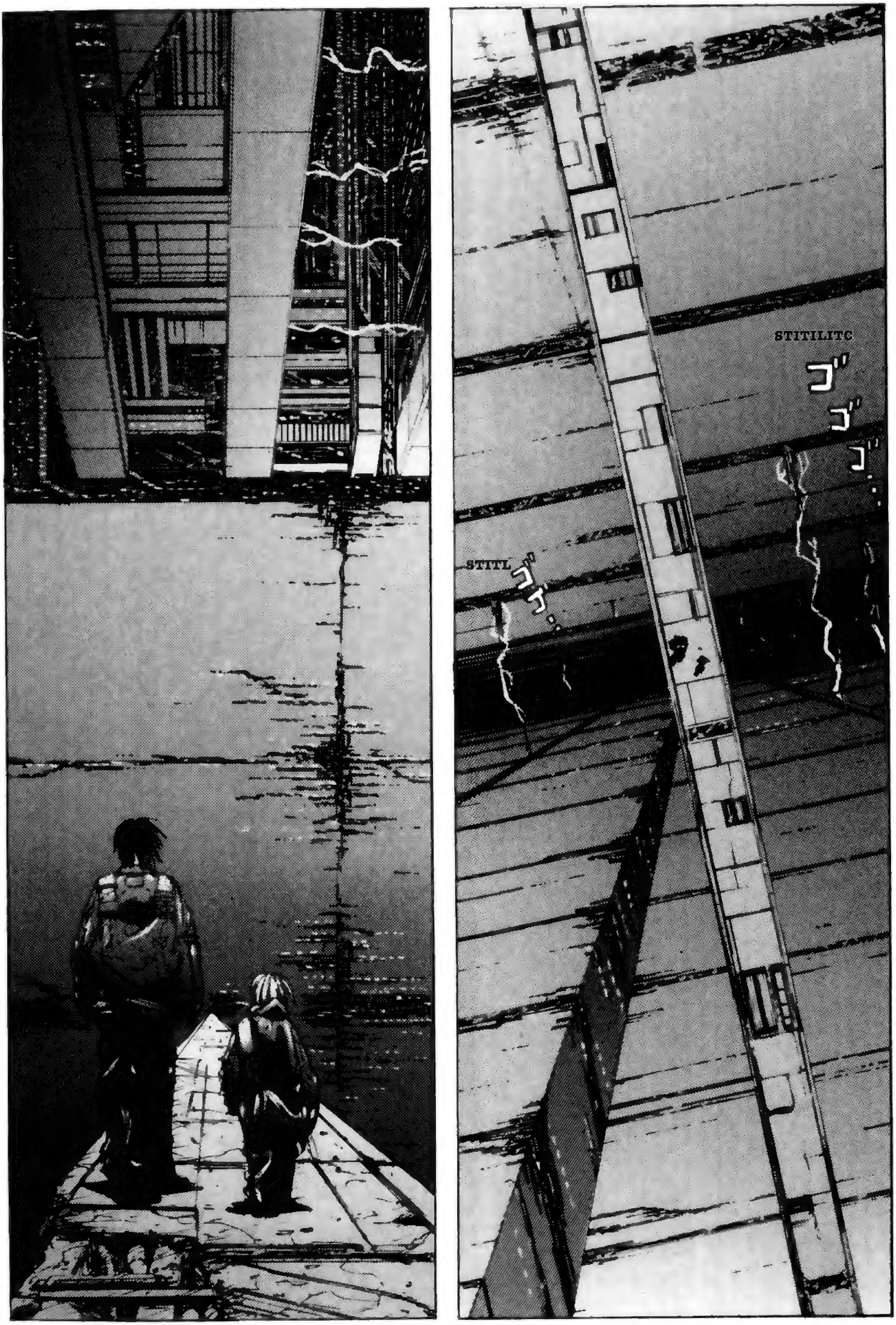

STITILITC
ゴゴゴ…
STITL
ゴゴ…

BLAME!

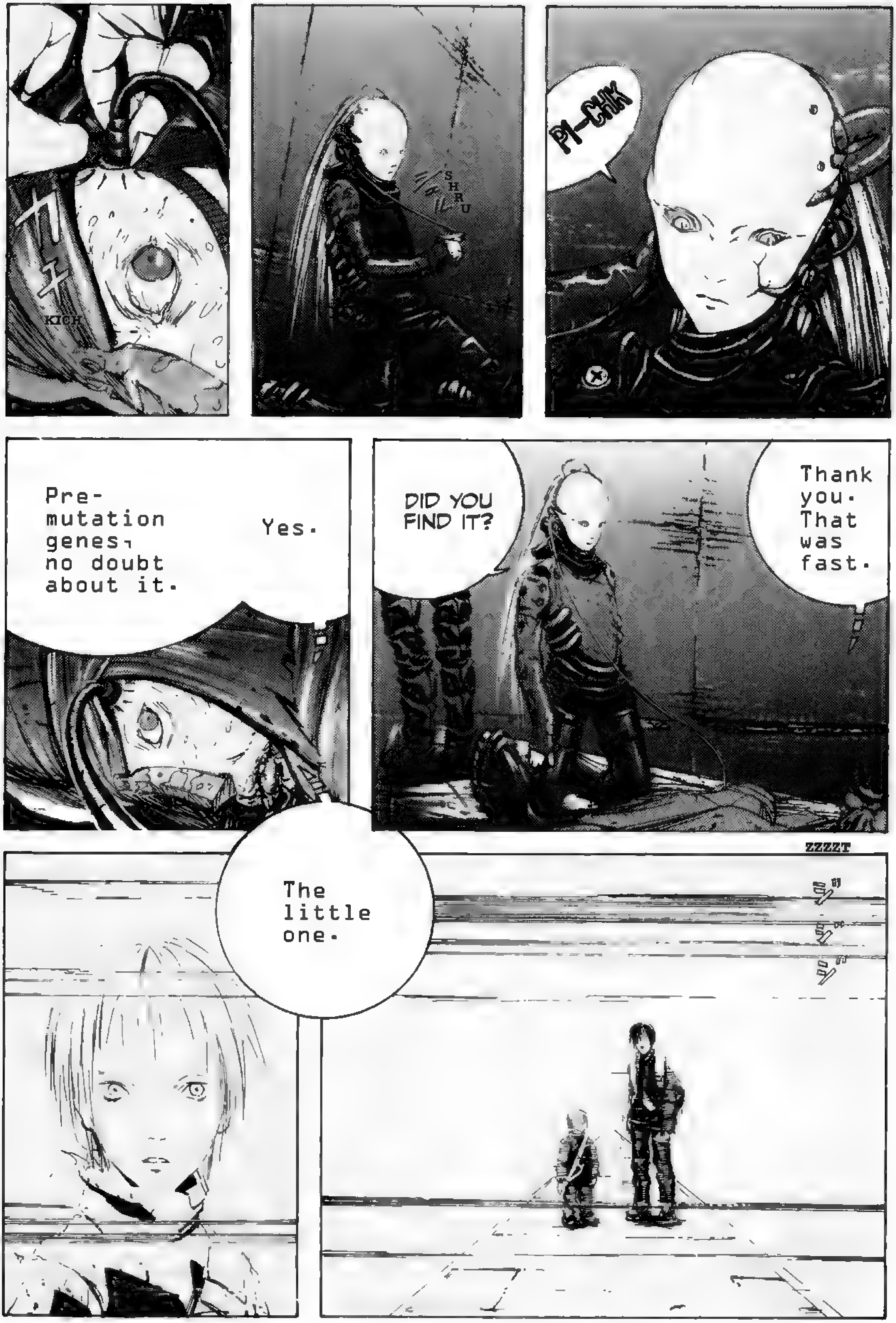
弐 NIHEI 瓶 TSUTOMU 勉

UH...
?!
TRT
GET IN THERE.
....

HELLO.
I HAVEN'T SEEN A SOUL IN AGES!
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
FROM BACK THERE, IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE TRAVELING WITH SOMEONE...
BUT MAYBE I WAS JUST SEEING THINGS.

HEY.
YES? WHAT CAN I--?
SHWP
CHK
CRIKKK
BLAM!

PAH
ZSU ZSU
ズズ
WAS HE AFTER MY CELLS TOO, KILLY?

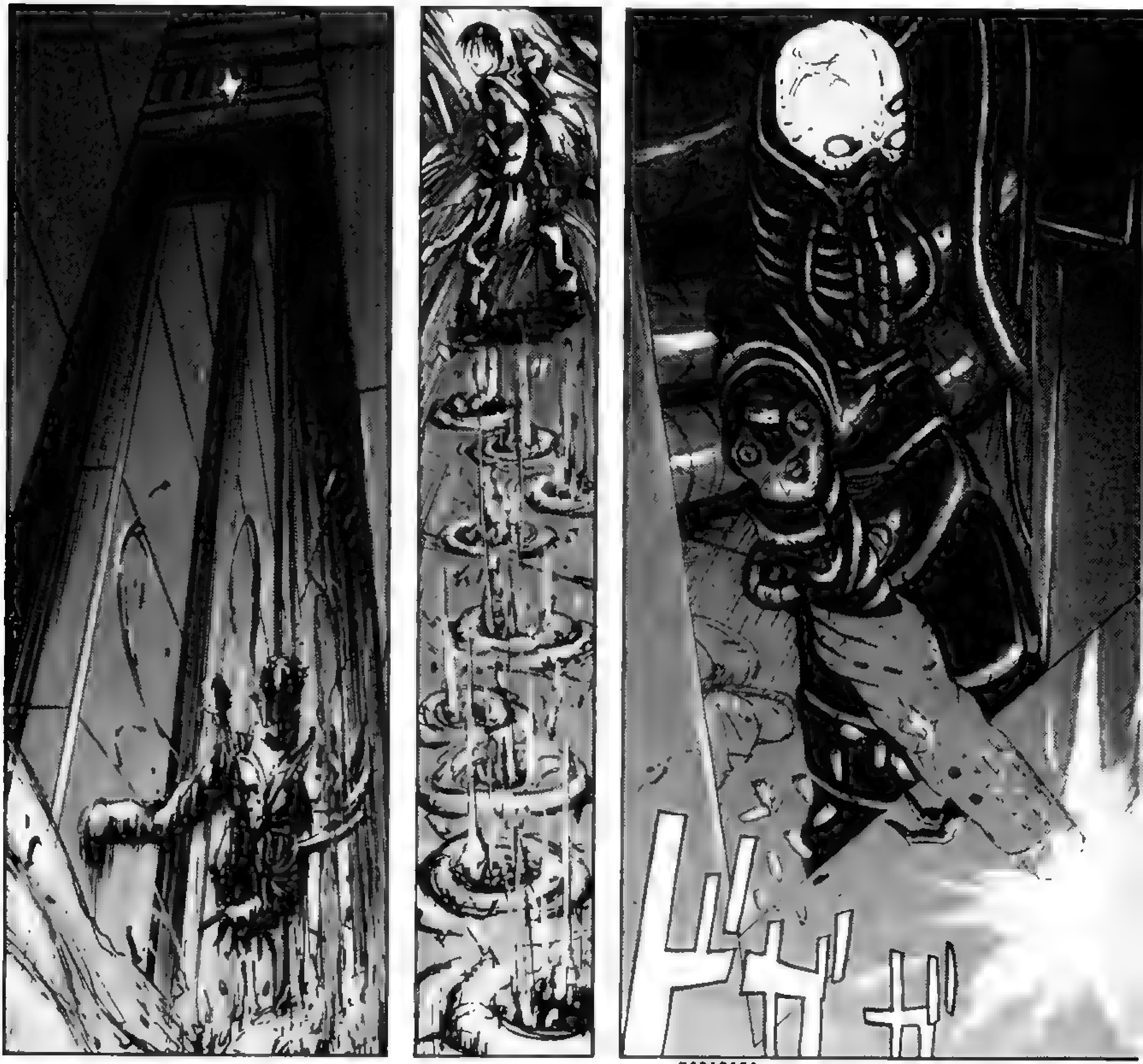

PI-CHK
SHRU
KICH
Thank you. That was fast.
DID YOU FIND IT?
Yes.
Pre-mutation genes, no doubt about it.
ZZZZT
The little one.

WHAT ABOUT THE MAN?
He would not scan.
Now, hurry up and save my memory?
No!! Don't do th—
PIP
FLWP

FWSH
CHINK
WHSH

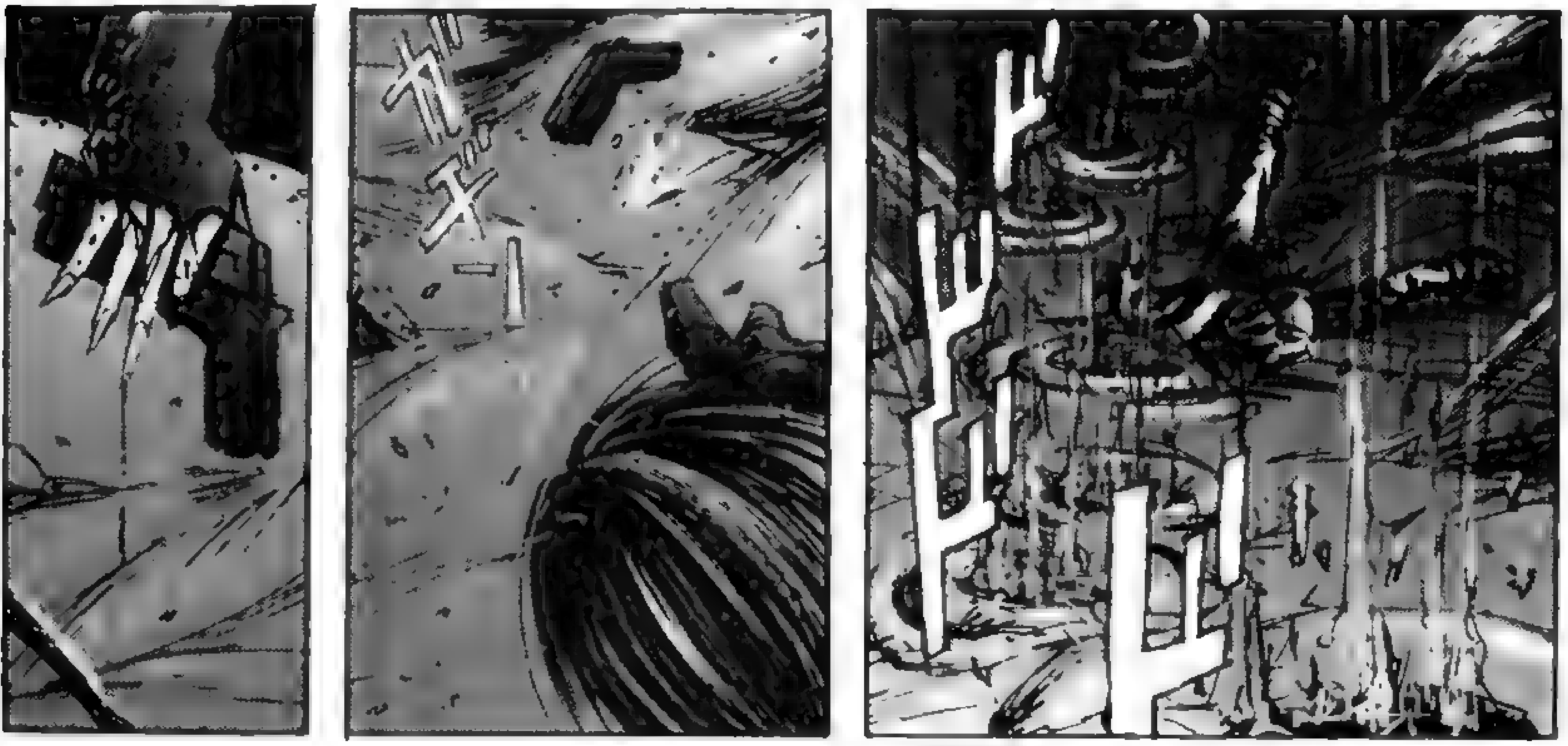
ジャキッ
CHK
BZZZZT

BLAM!
PCHOO
ドオ
SRRRP



KA-KNK-KNK

DOGAGAGA



POGAGAGA

ジャ
JAAA
ダッ
DASH
PA-KOOMB
ドゴ

PA KOOMB

GA-SHUNK
HAH!
KICH
SHFF
BLB-BLB-BLB
GCH
BLB, BLB
CRRRK

ドドドド
TA TA TA TA
ガガーン

VRECK

TA
TA
TA
THD
THD
THD
THD
TA TA TA TA
CRRRK

シュルルルル
SHURURURUR
PUHB
ドォッ
TAKATAKA

GURRRH
ゴォォ
KRKUKRK
ゴゴゴゴ

TA TA TA
BLAM! BLAM!!
PHUB

BLAM!
CRMKE

ゴォン
GONN
SHUUUU
シュー
SHUUUU

THD
ヴァギッ
CRUNKCH

SHWA
KYOOOO
フフ…

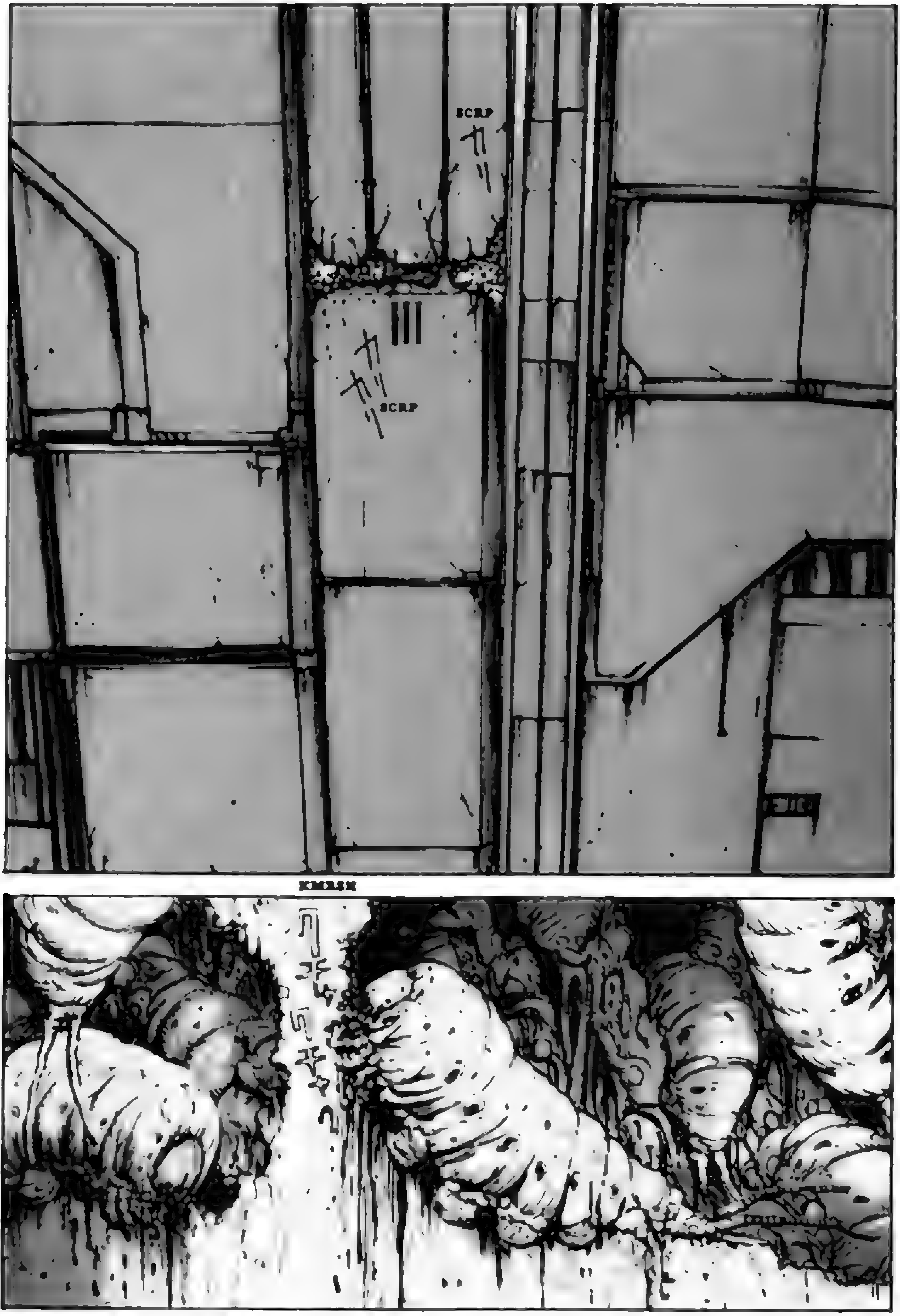
THWP
ヨロ…

ドドドドドド
ボザッ

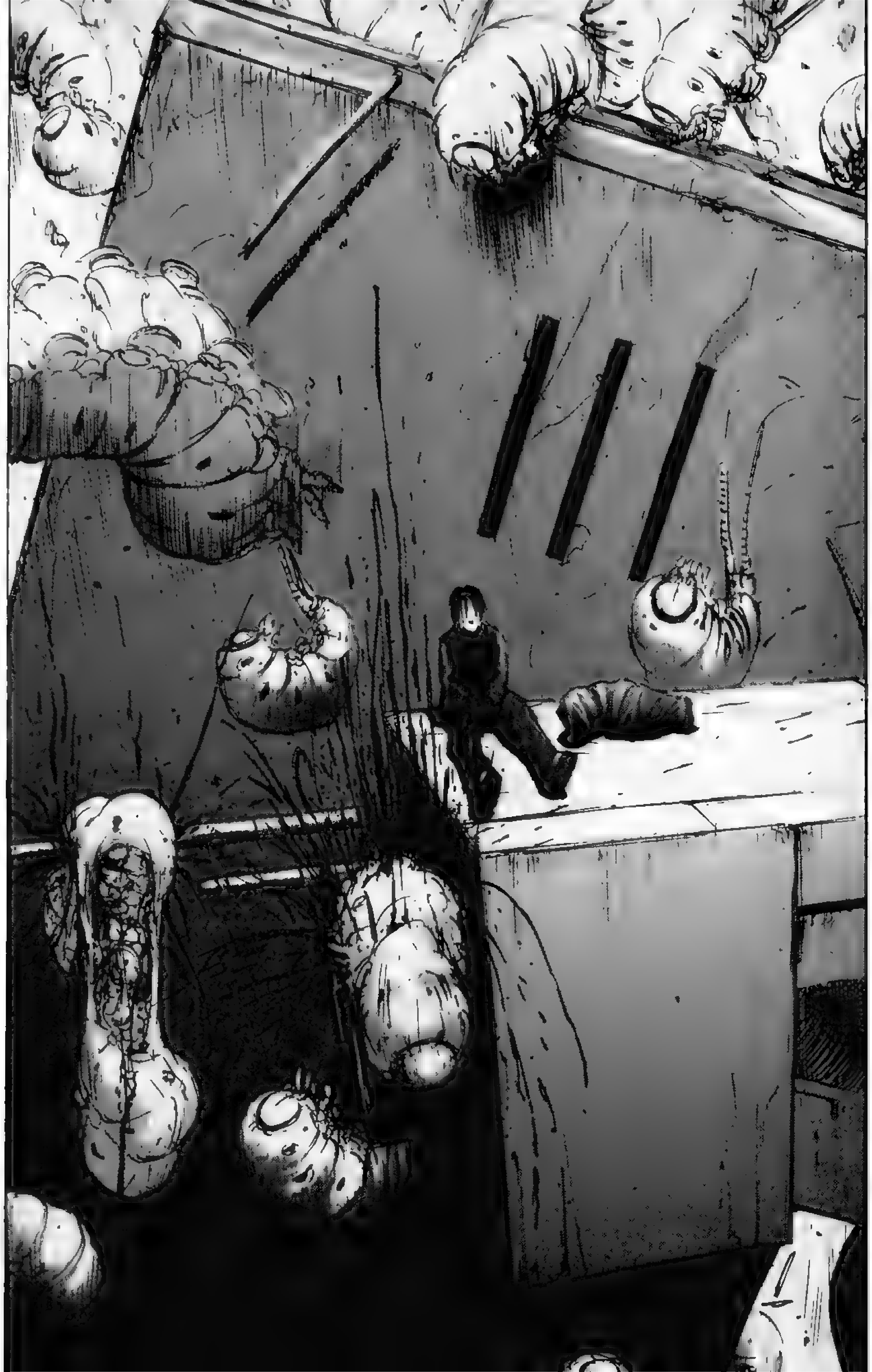
RIPPP

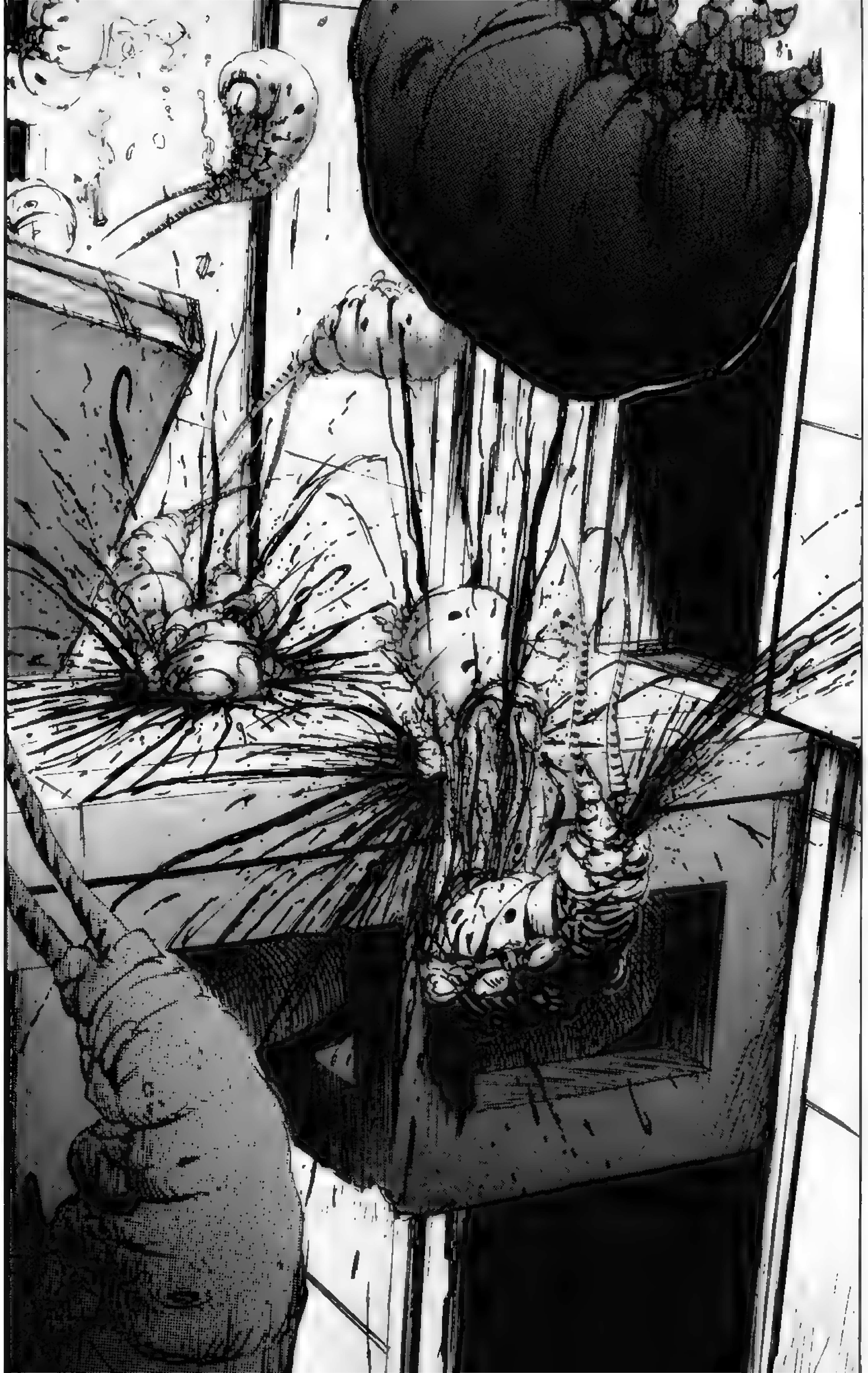
LOG.1@END

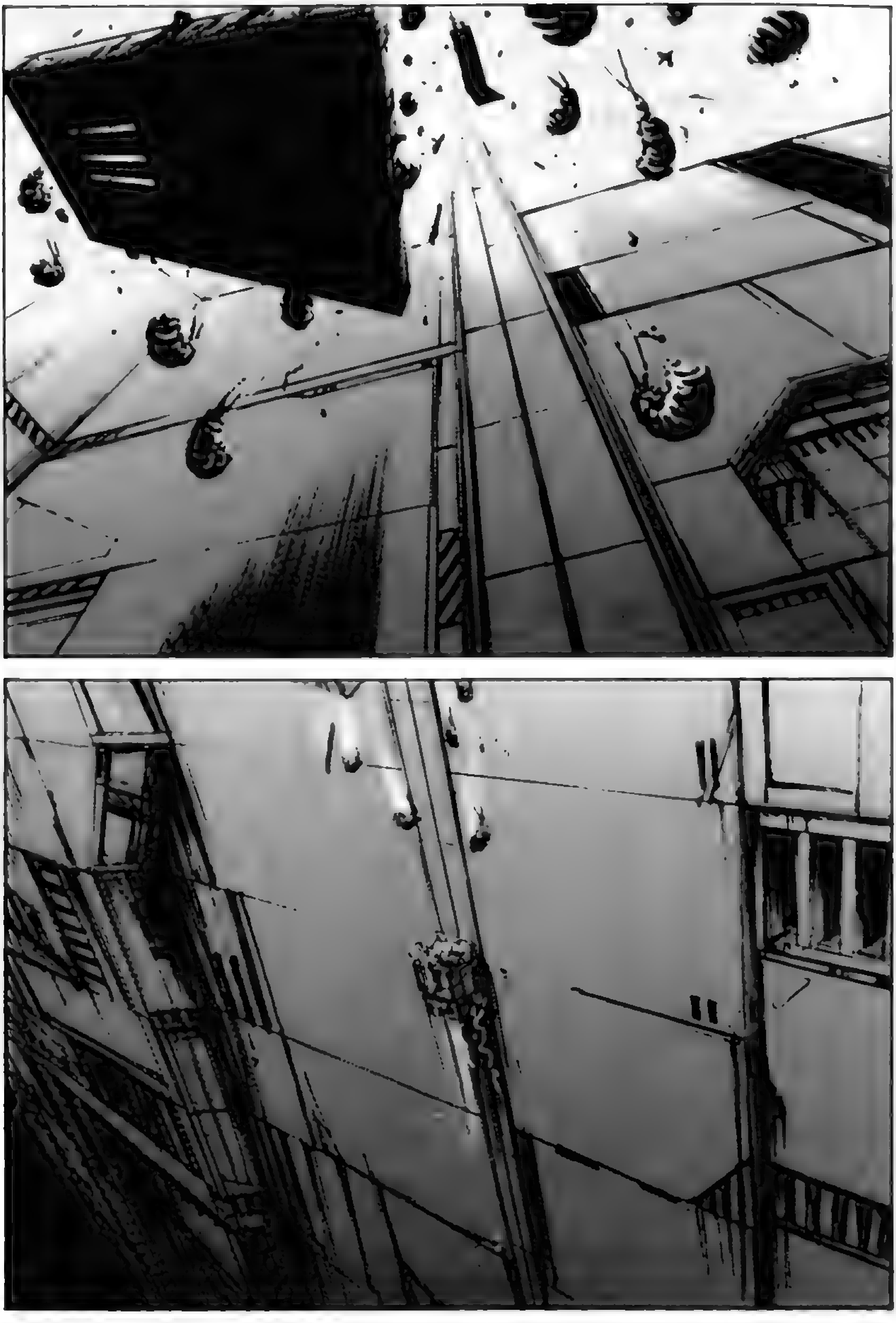
LOG.2 - Memories of the Land


SCRP
カリ
カリカリ
SCRP
KMRSH

WHUSHHH







WHUSH

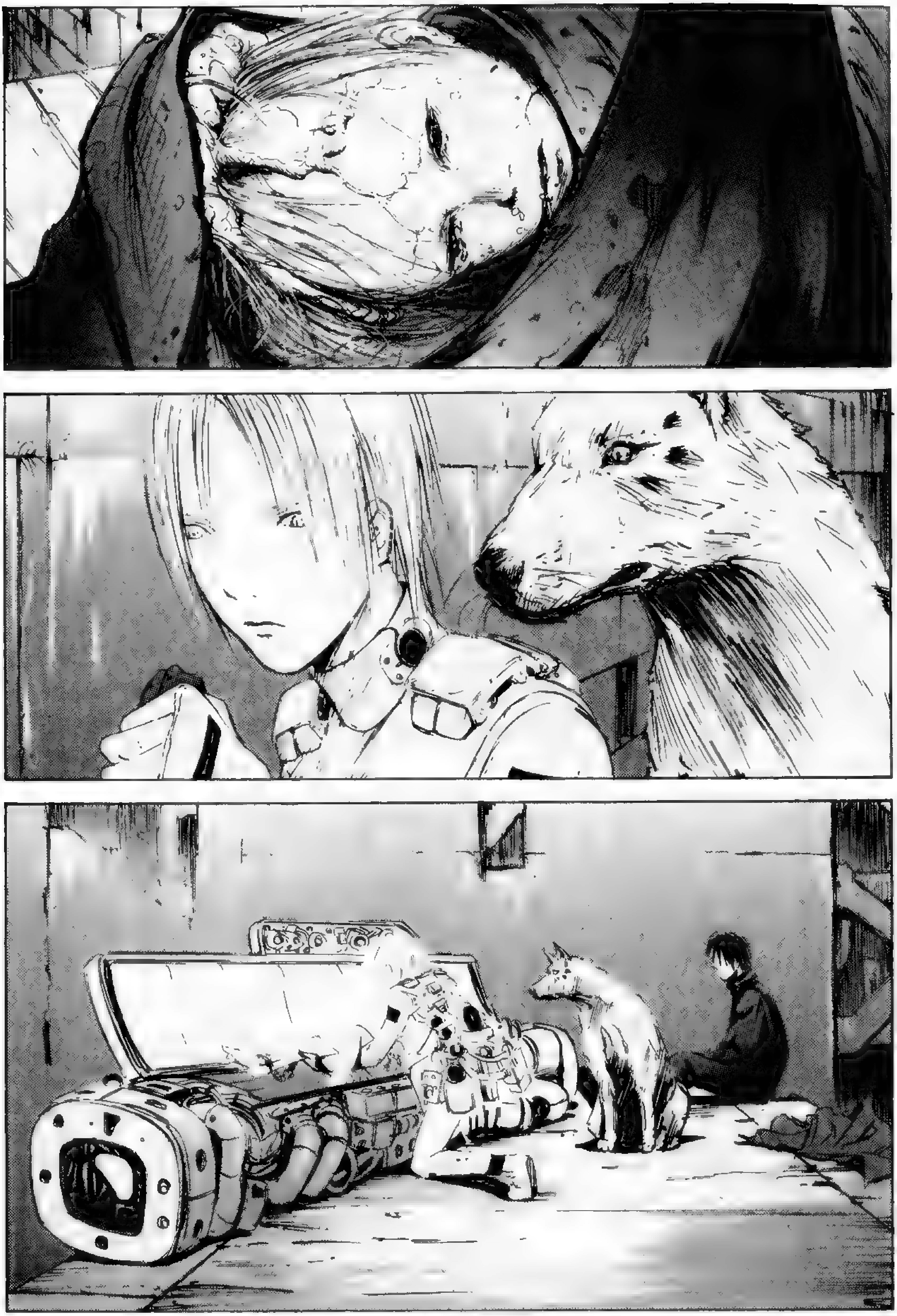
SPLRRT
TPPP

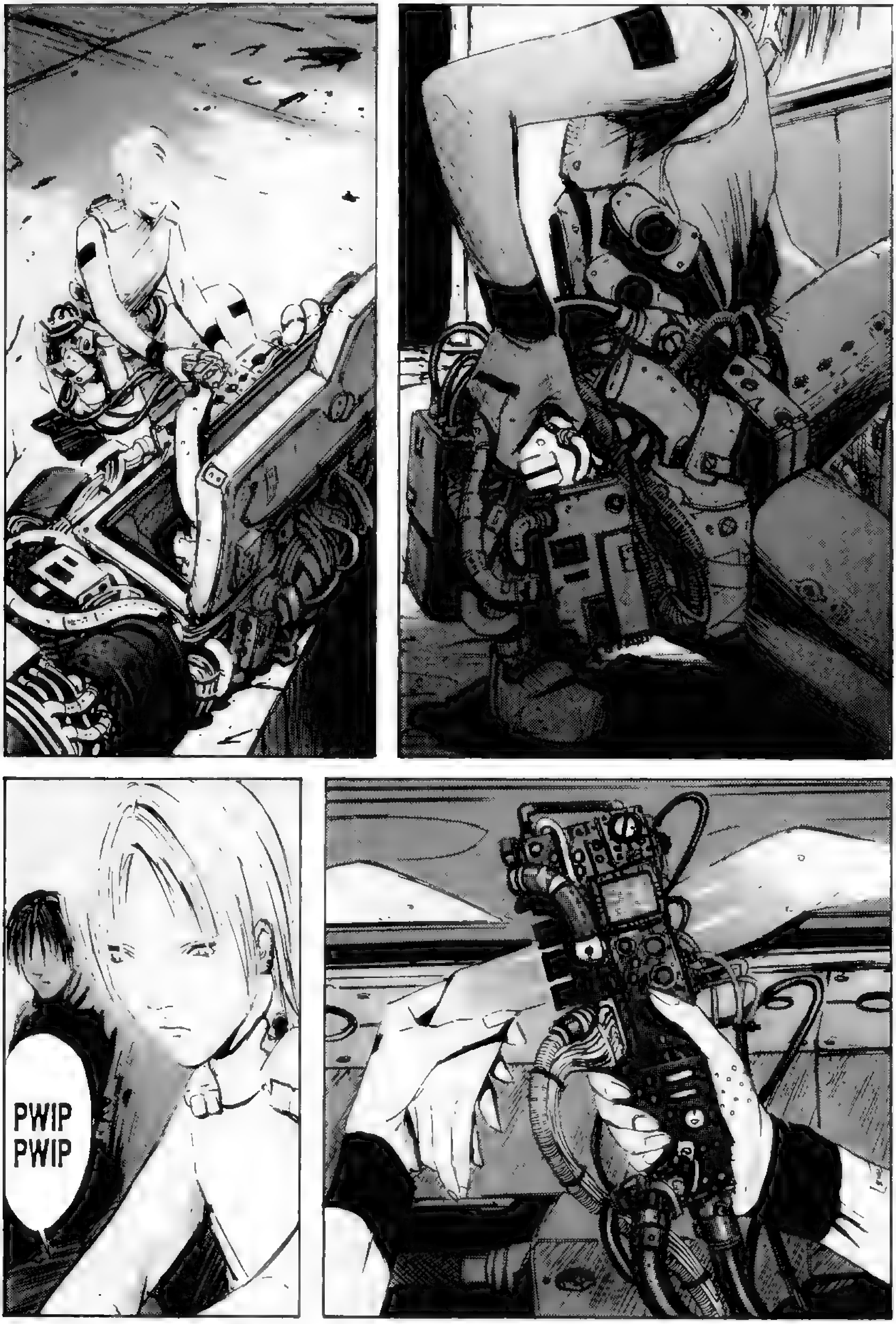
SKRIII
SLAM
PSHHH
TPP
SCRP SCRP

HAFF
WHUMF

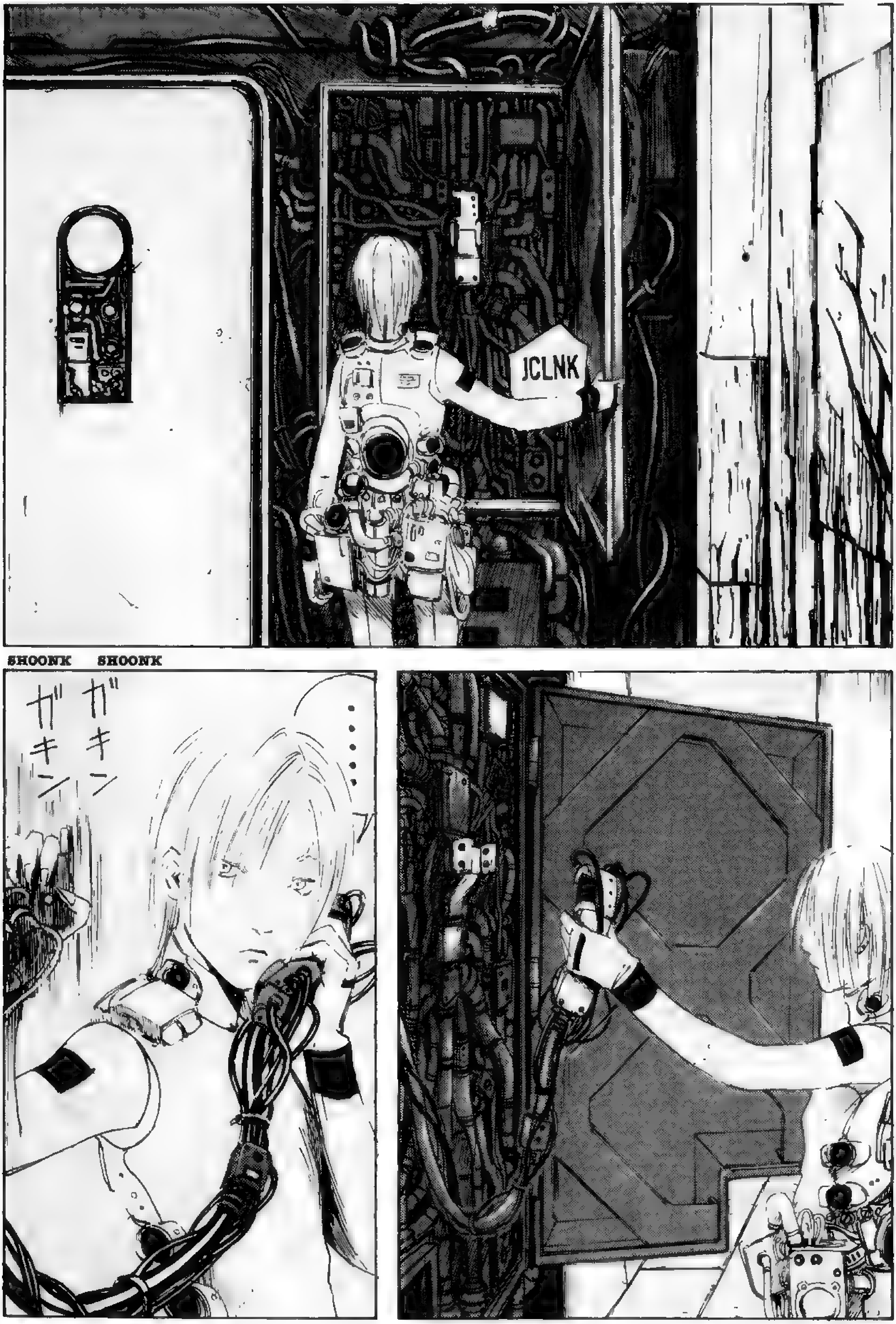
ズシン
ズシン
WHUMF
HAFF HAFF
ガゴッ
BMFF

GUREECK
PSHHH
TINT
TINT
FLWP

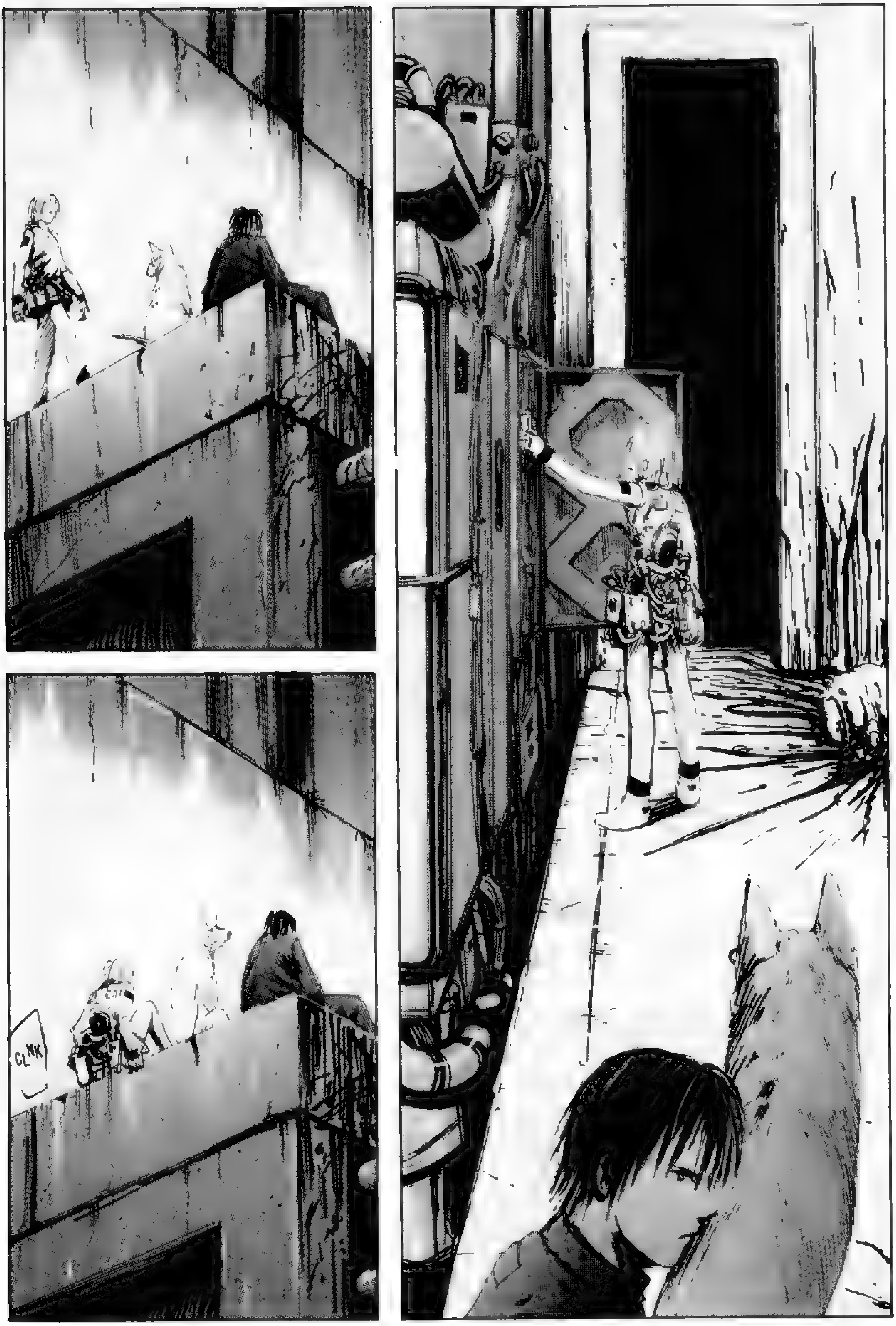



PWIP PWIP

WHUMF
CLNK
CLNK
ガシャ
ガシャ


JCLNK
SHOONK SHOONK
ガキン
ガキン
・・・・・

CRONK!
FLICK
I'VE RECEIVED THE SAMPLE FROM KILLY. I'M ON MY WAY BACK NOW.
YES.
THE MUTATION WAS LIMITED TO ONLY THE TENTH AND ELEVENTH CHROMOSOMES.
GET EVERYTHING READY.


CLNK

WE'VE DETECTED SIGNS OF A RESIDENTIAL SECTOR 3,000 LEVELS UP. THE SYSTEMS ARE OPERATIONAL...
...BUT WE DON'T KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY PEOPLE LEFT.

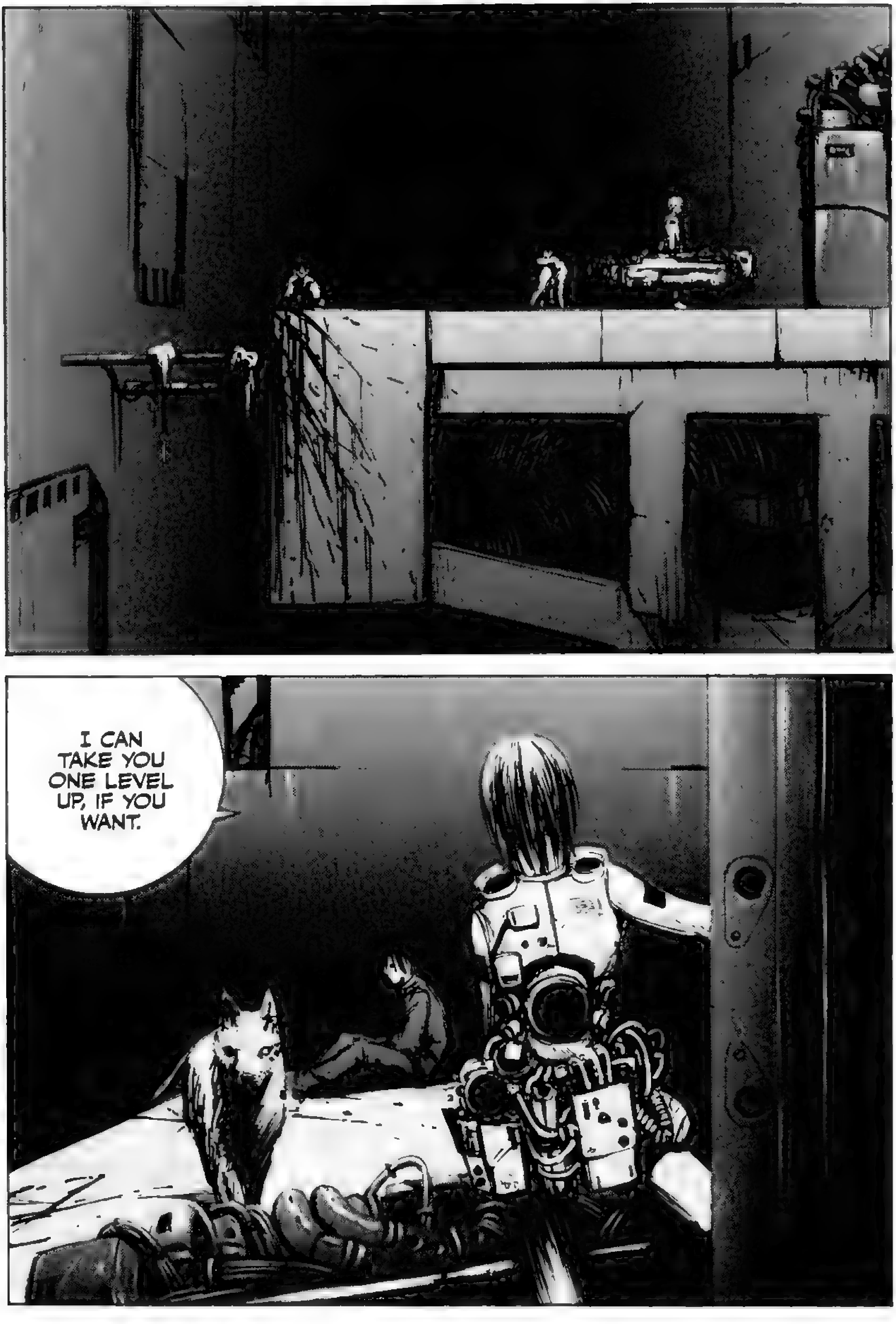
WE NEED YOU TO CONFIRM.

"WHEN THE COLD AND QUIET LAND BECAME BRIGHT, MAN'S SHADOW WAS CAST UPON YON DISTANT HILL."

WHAT IS "LAND"?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE?

A HARDCOPY? THIS IS QUITE OLD.
CAN I HAVE IT?

IT'S GETTING DARKER.


I CAN TAKE YOU ONE LEVEL UP, IF YOU WANT.

SHHHNK

LOG.2@END

LOG. 3 The Technomads

WHERE'S SHICHIZO?
HE'S STILL WAY DOWN THERE.

SHICHIZO! THE WATCHERS ARE COMING. IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, SHUT DOWN YOUR SYSTEMS.
TWOOP
ZZZ.. SHICHIZO.. ZZZ.. RESPOND... ZZZ.
WHAT? YOU'RE BREAKING UP!
THE WATCHERS ARE COMING!!
STOP TRANSMISSION OR THEY'LL TRACE THE SIGNAL!
WHAT WAS THAT? REPEAT, OVER.

PASHUN
パシュン

SPRECK
BZZZZZZZ
WHUFF

THE WATCHER DISAPPEARED FROM OUR SCANNERS.
ZSU ZSU
ZSU ZSU
WHAT'S THAT?!
HEY! WAIT!!
SHWOO
YONE! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE.
CLANK

DAMN!
FWUMP
CRUNCK

SCRP
CLNK
CLNK

A WATCHER!
IT'S DEAD!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO IT?
LOOK OVER HERE!
WHAT IS IT?
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT.

GUHRRR
PUSHUUU
THE OTHERS WILL BE SHOCKED
YES. I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF PEOPLE LIVING OUTSIDE THE SHELTER.

CLNGG

WHO'S THAT? WAS HE *OUTSIDE?!*
YEAH! HIS HEAD IS BLEEDING. WE NEED TO GET HIM TREATED.
FEELING BETTER?

YOU ARE ALL THE TALK, STRANGER. WE'VE NEVER FOUND ANYONE OUTSIDE.
DOES ANYONE HERE HAVE TERMINAL GENES?
HUH?
NOBODY HERE CAN CONNECT TO THE NET?
NET?
……

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
PIK
パキッ
PREK
SQUEE
KILLY.
FINDING HIM DOESN'T SEEM SO EXCITING NOW...

KLAK-KLAK
ガラ
ガラ
?
CRAK
パラッ
KINK
SHUMMMM
BOAP

PZAP
PZAP
PZAP
DOMM
FLSH
ASAKO!! SEAL MIDWAY GATE!!
GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE.
CLNK

ゴゴゴゴ
GRRGRRGRR
BOHN
ゴォー
カーン カーン
CLNG CLNG
SNATCH
PZAP

SLLLLD
DONKG
ドーン
BATA
BATA
BATA
BUNK

SHURP

CLNK
HAFF
HAFF
WE'RE MOVING OUT!! TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU CAN CARRY!!

GO WITH THEM. OTHER WATCHERS WILL BE COMING SOON.
CAN YOU SHOW ME WHERE THEY COME FROM?

THONK
HAS ANYONE SEEN YONE?

THERE IT IS.

W—WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THEY'RE GOING TO SEE YOU!

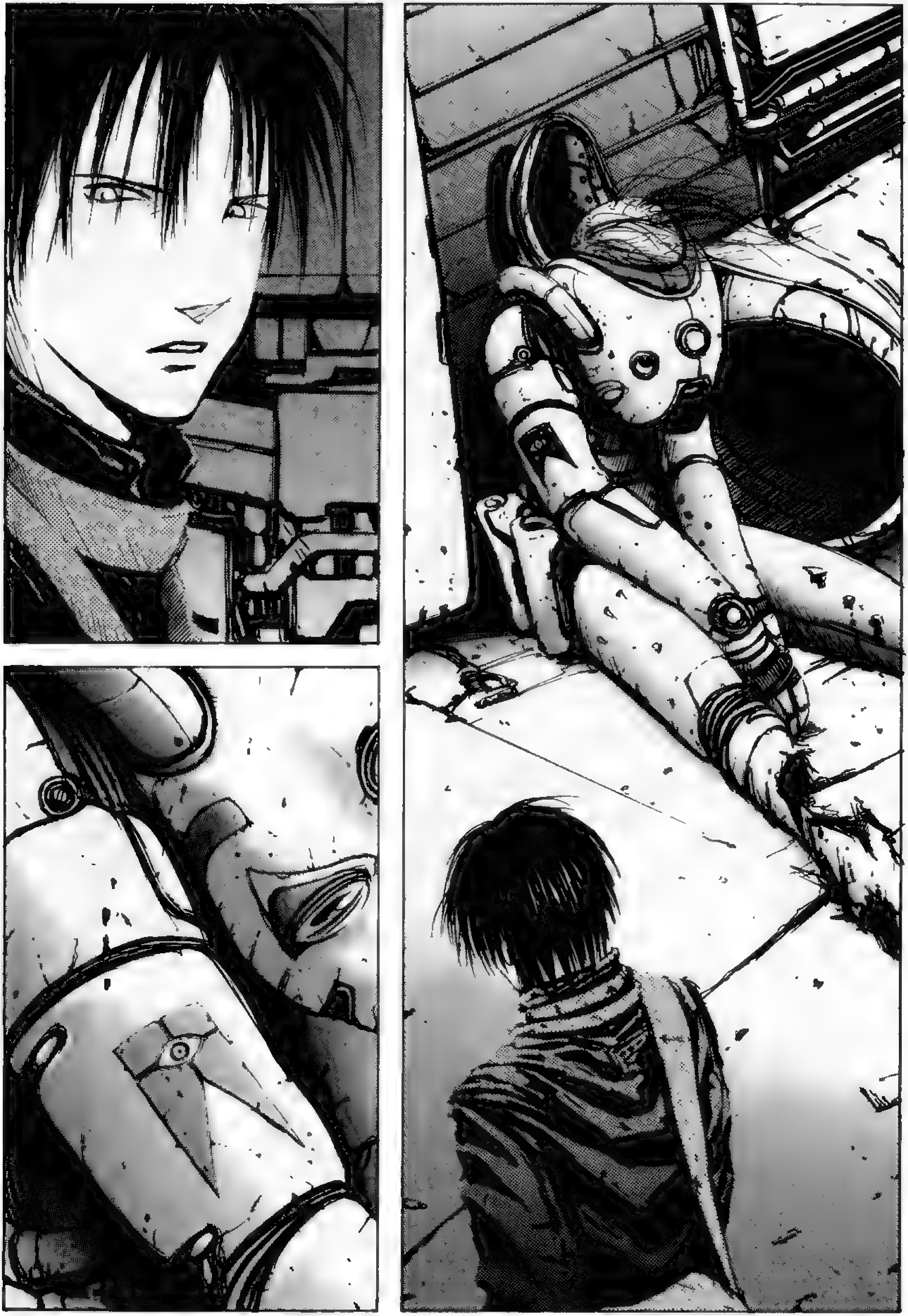
ドガッ
KA-BLAM!

PLK

オオ
ZUOOH
ドム
THWD

ドドド
DURD DURD

LOG.3@END

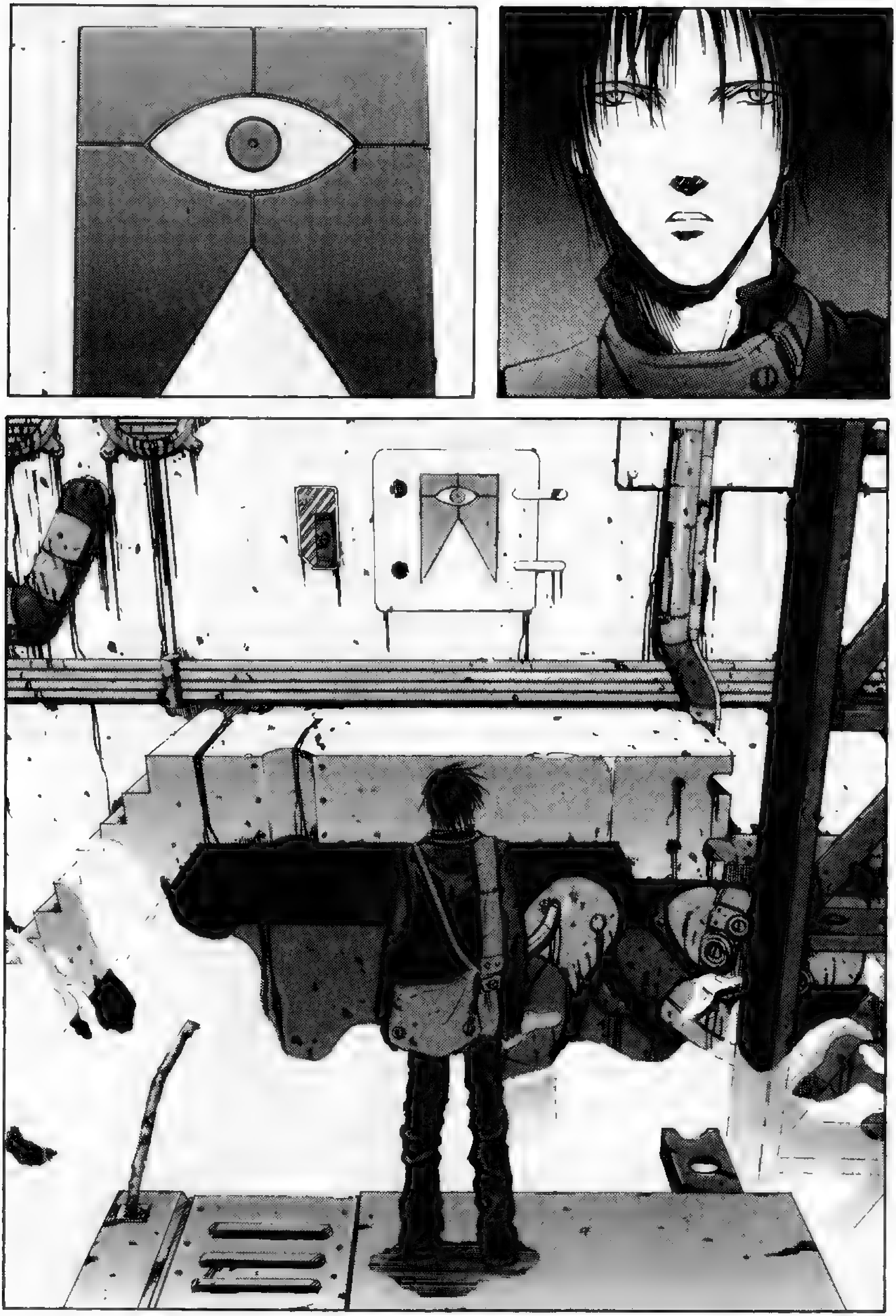


ガゴン
ガゴ
GATHNK

CLAKA CLAKA

KACHI KACHI KACH
Zoom In

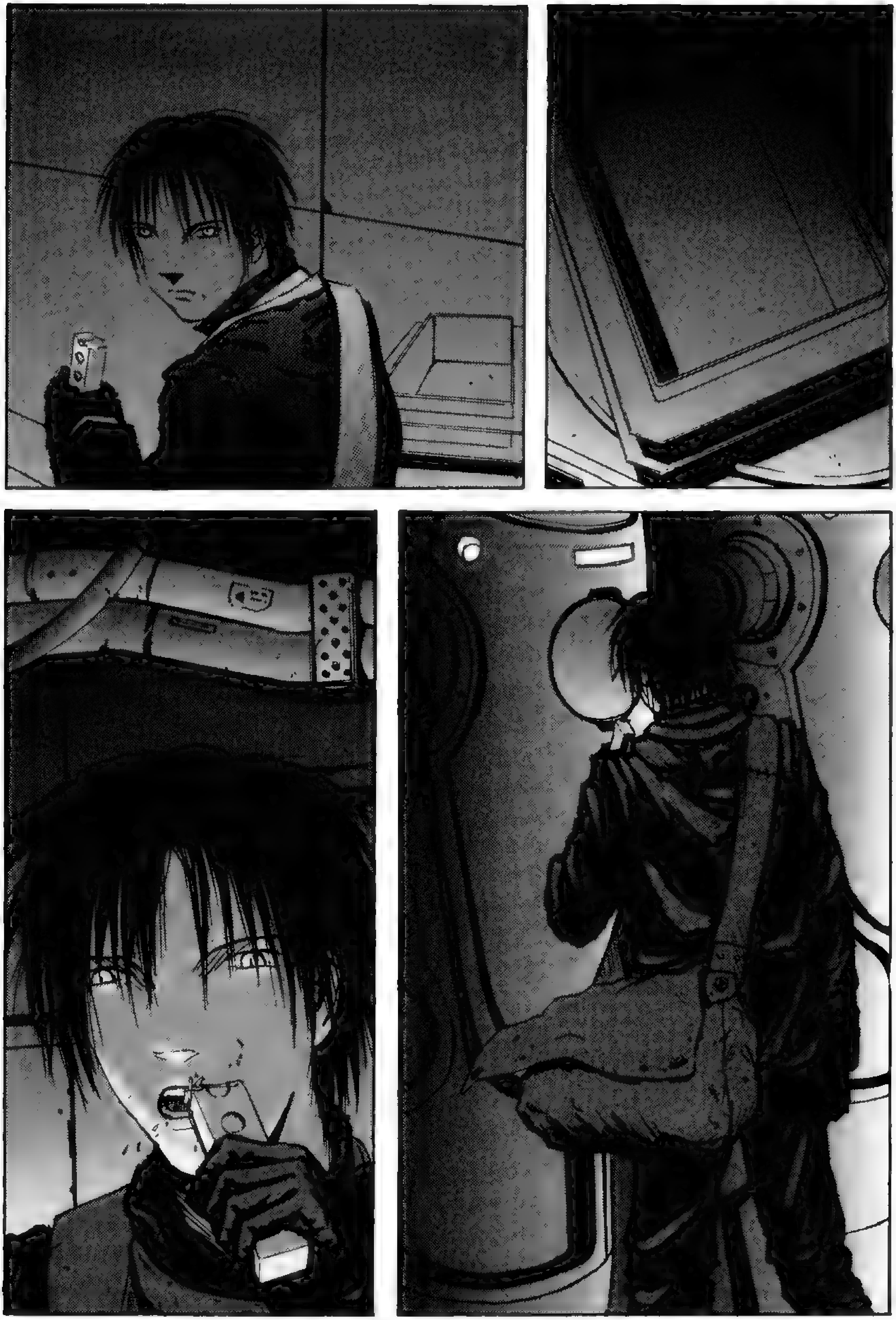
PWIP PWIP
Max Zoom
21000

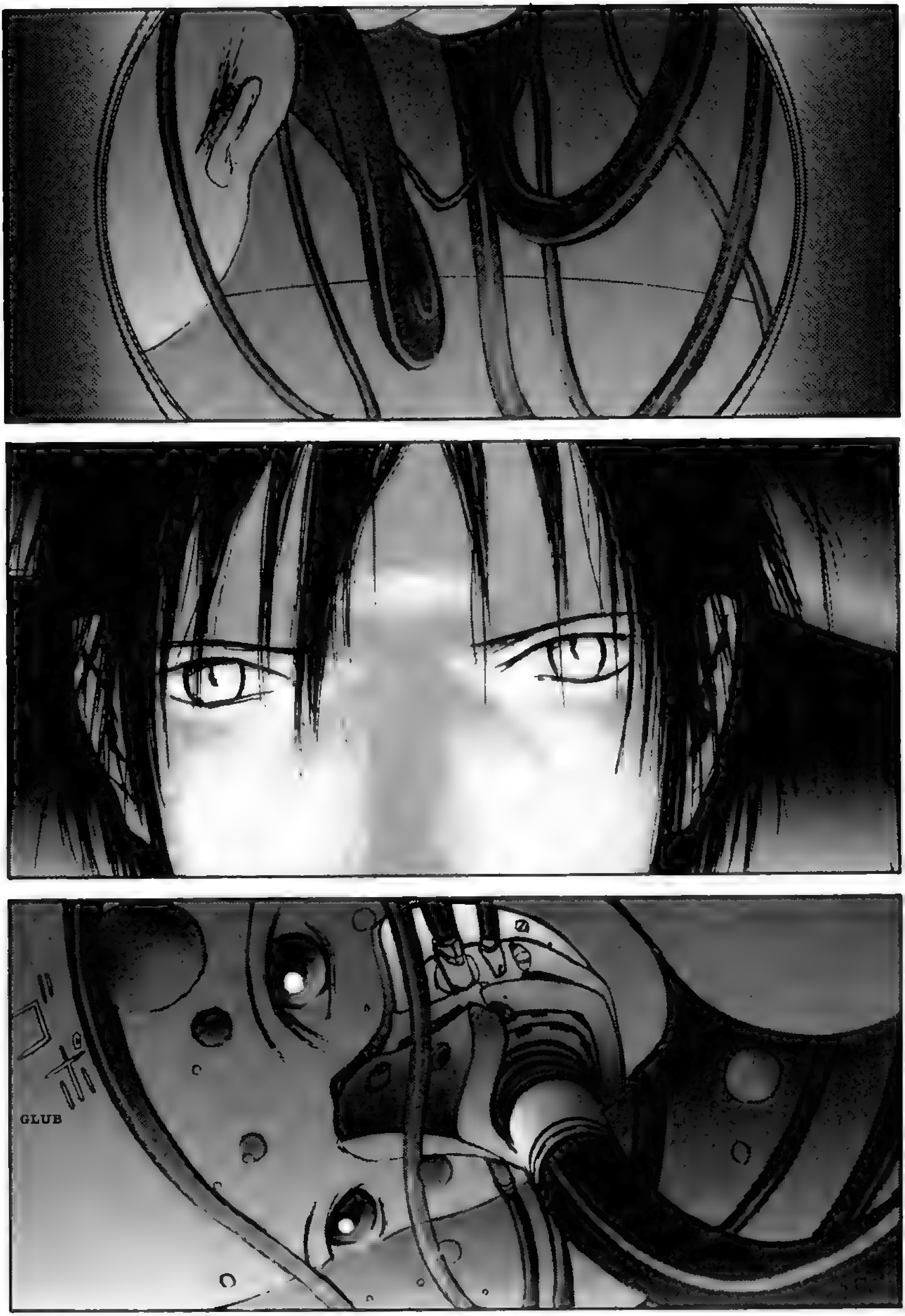


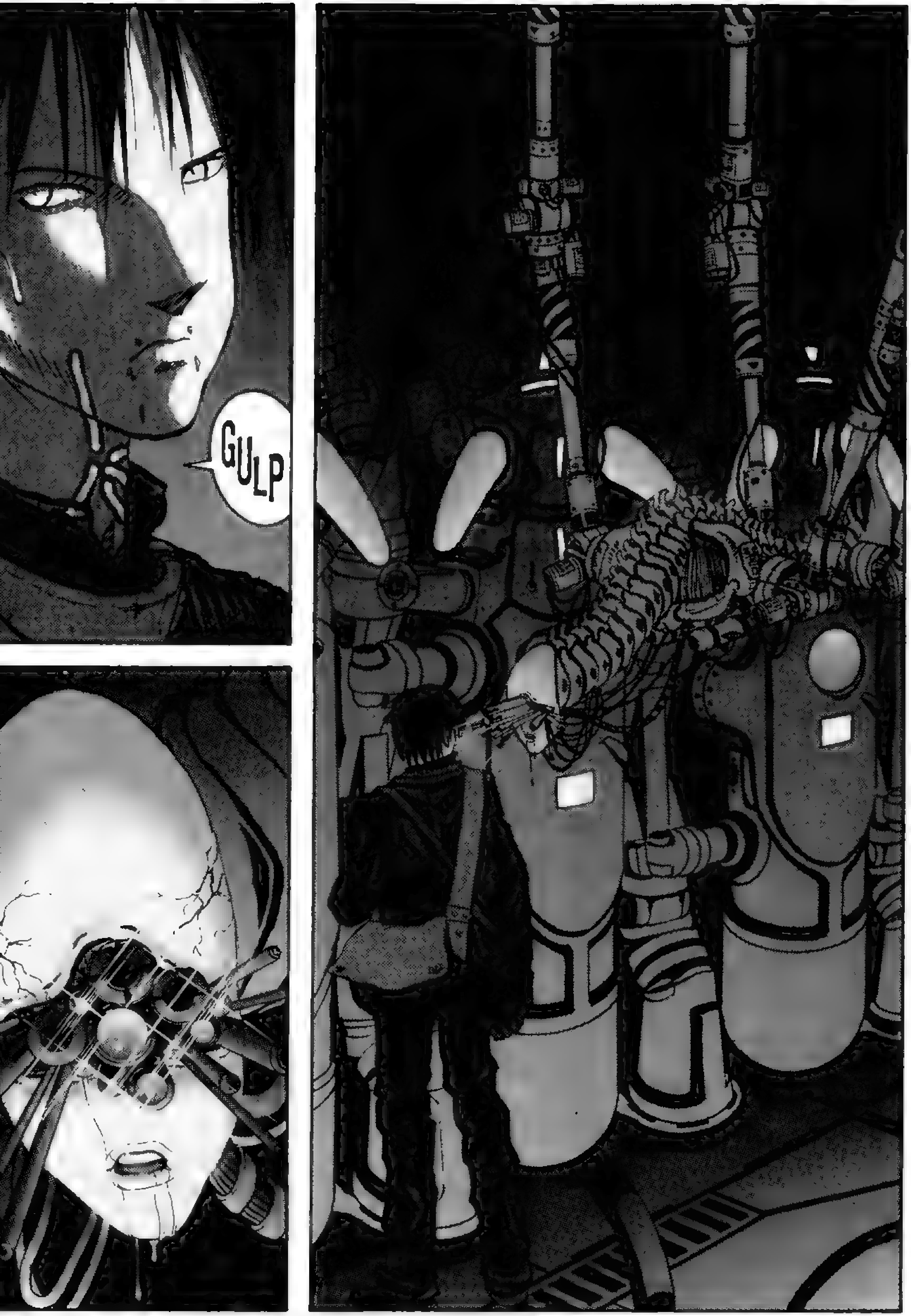
THWMP
PWMP
ペタ
ペタ
SHLAT SHLAT

CRUNCH
ギイイィ
GRRRF

CRUNCH
MUNCH
SKPP

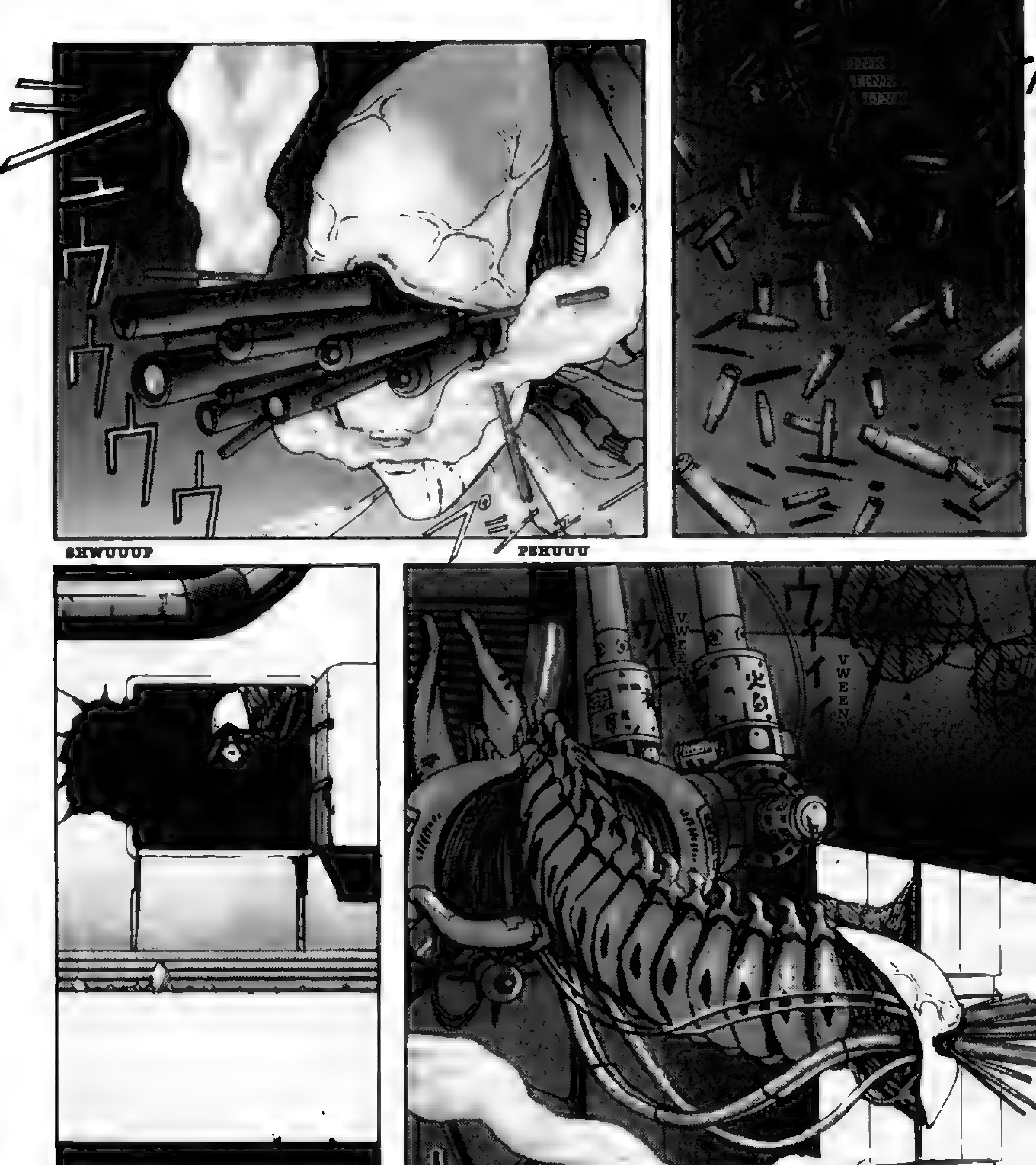



ゴポ
GLUB

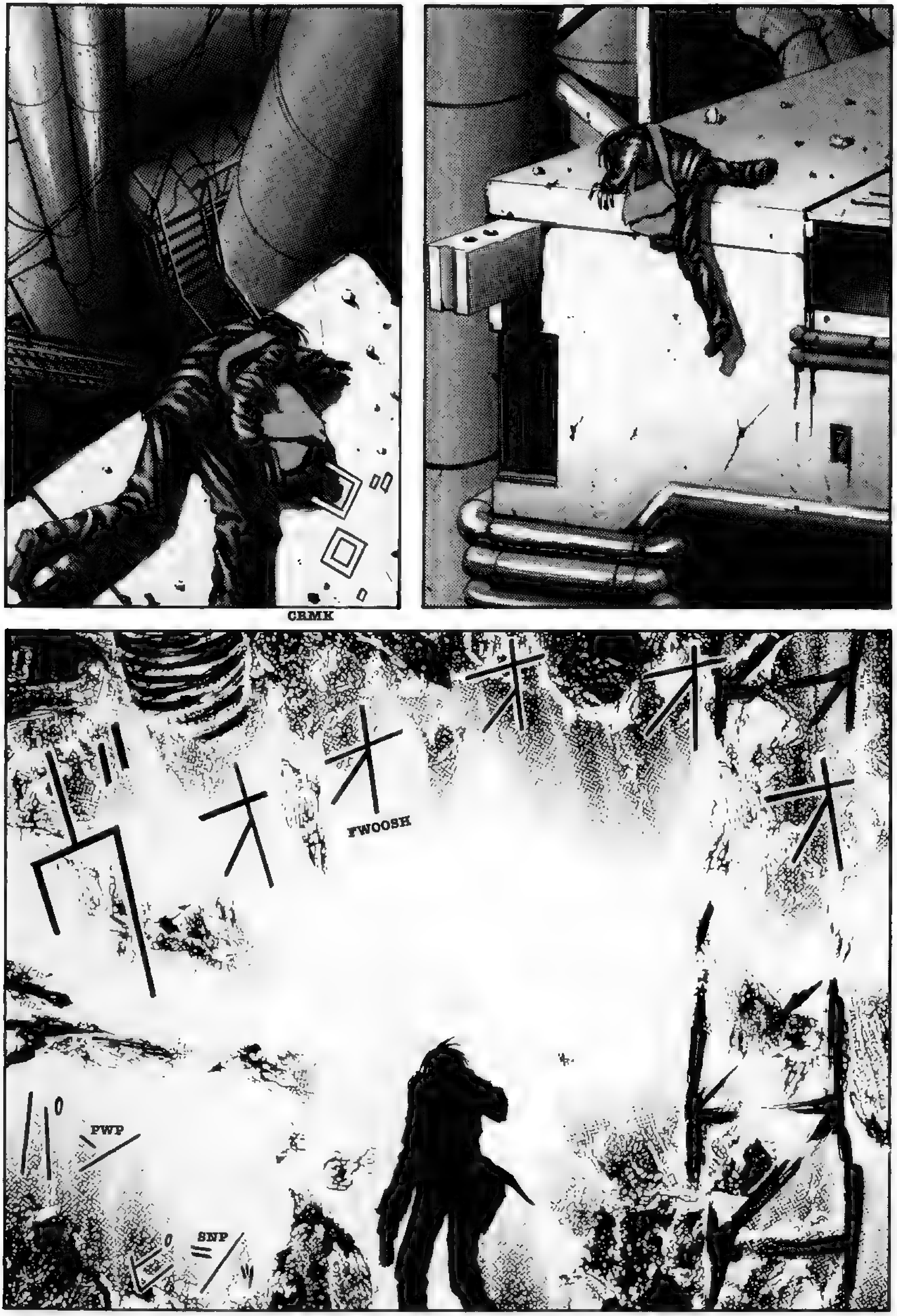

GULP

CRACK
VWEEN

BA-BA-BA-BA-BA-BA

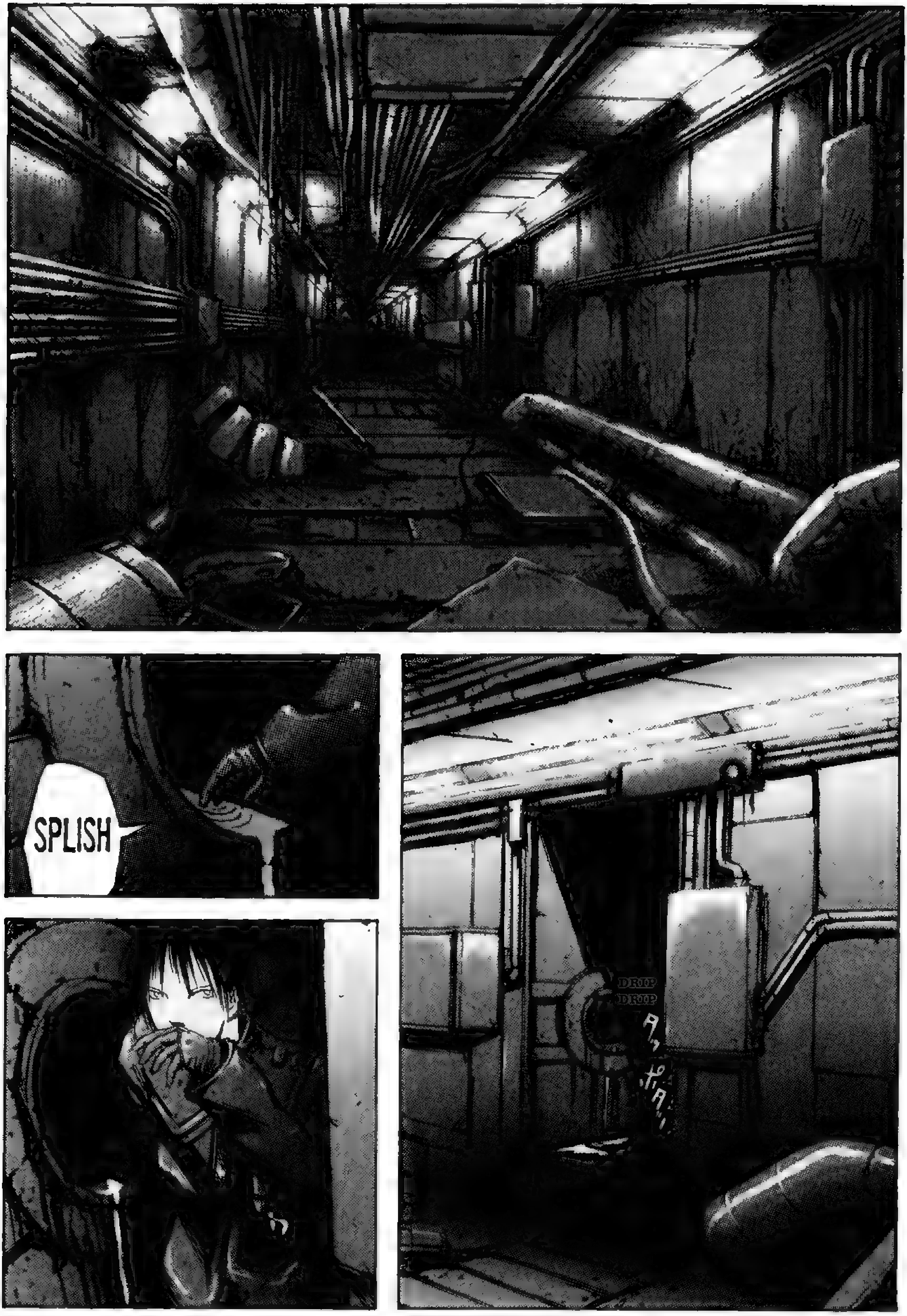

TINK
TINK
TINK
SHWUUUP
PSHUUU
VWEEN
VWEEN
SHKKKRITC

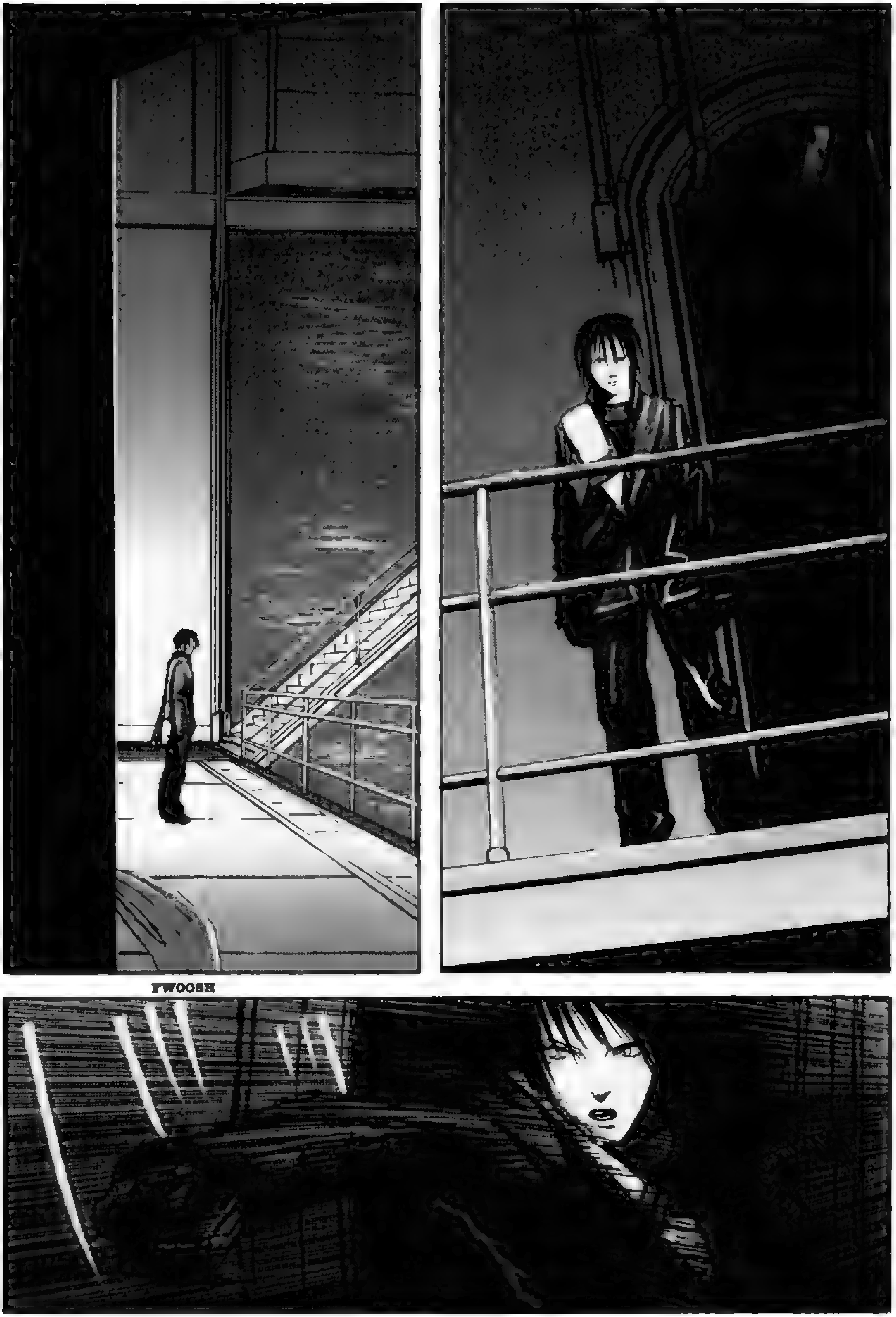
VWOOM
BLAM!


CRMK
FWOOSH
PWP
SNP

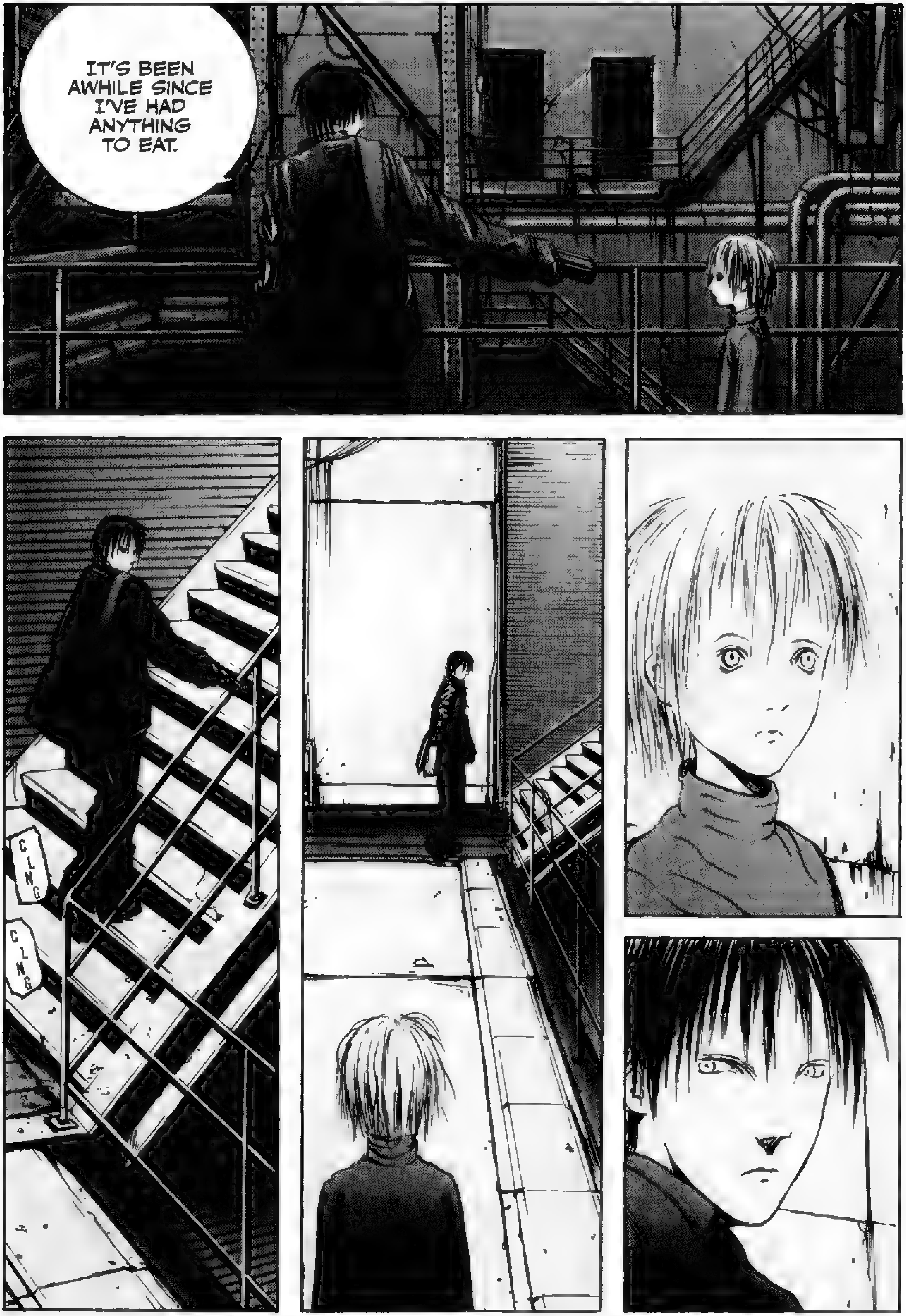
EX-LOG@END

LOG.4 – The Authority


DRIP
DRIP
タッ ピタ
SPLISH


FWOOSH

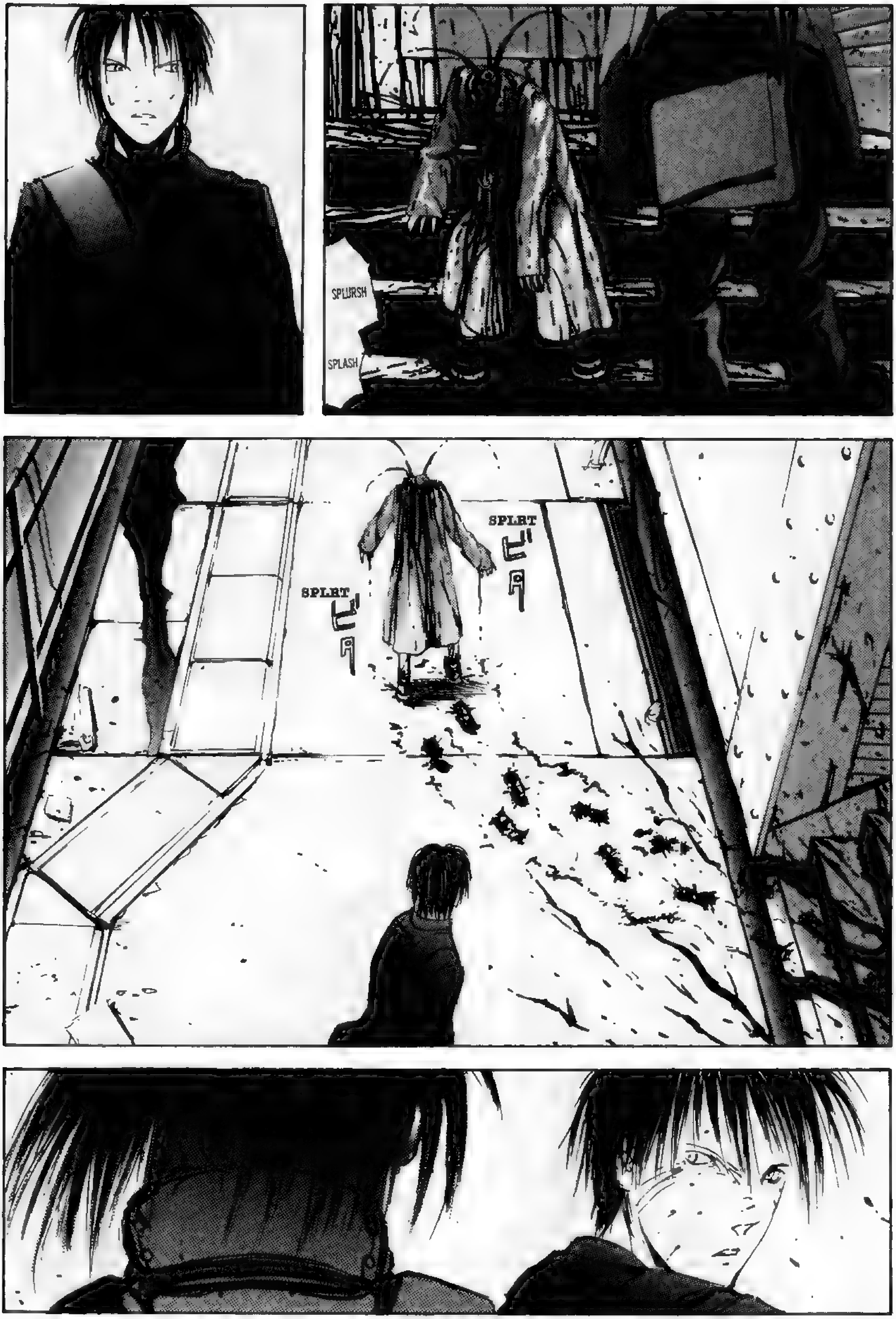
ARE THERE ANY PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS AREA?


IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I'VE HAD ANYTHING TO EAT.
CLNG
CLNG

THERE'S A VILLAGE FORTY LEVELS UP.
CLNG
BUT I'VE GOT FOOD HERE, IF YOU WANT SOME.

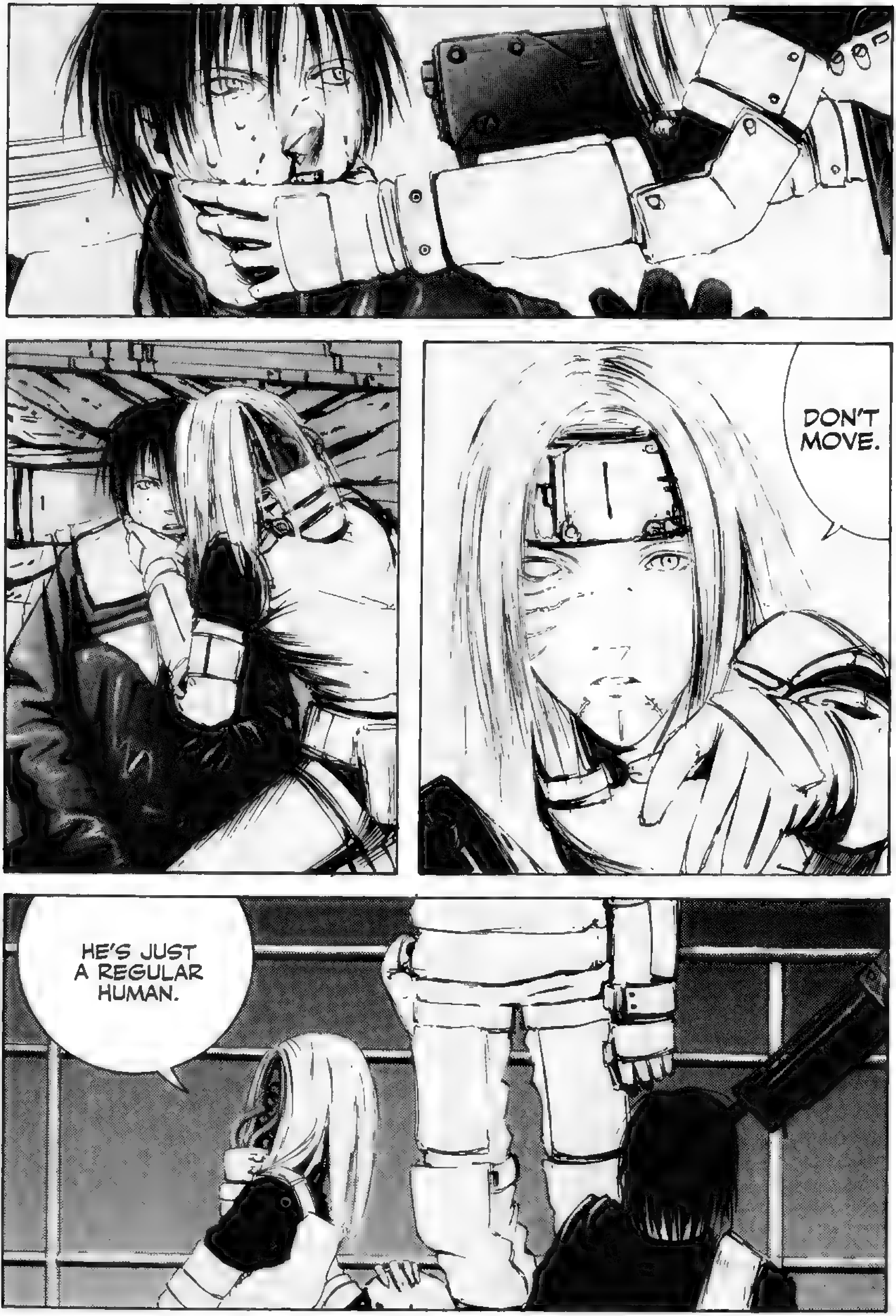
THANKS.
IF YOU WANT TRADE, ALL I HAVE HERE IS--
PUU

PLOOSH

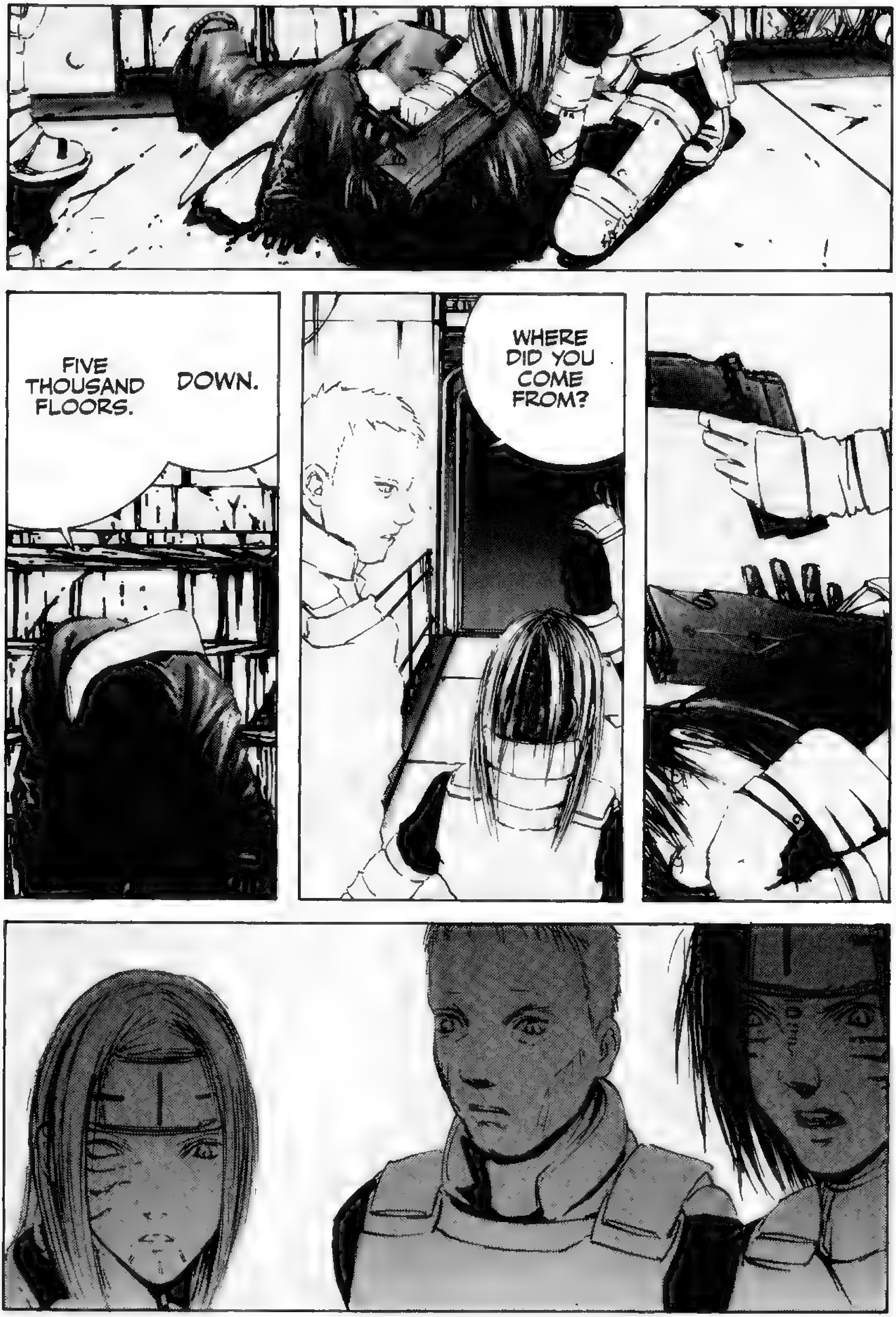

SPLURSH
SPLASH
SPLRT
ビタ
SPLRT
ビタ

THWK
ドシャ!!
WHUMP

TAGGA TAGGA
!!


DON'T MOVE.
HE'S JUST A REGULAR HUMAN.

THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN HE ISN'T HOOKED UP WITH THE AUTHORITY.
I SAY WE PLAY IT SAFE AND KILL HIM.
GRIP
I'M TAKING YOUR GUN.


WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
FIVE THOUSAND FLOORS.
DOWN.

THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT! IT DOESN'T EVEN GO DOWN THAT FAR!
YOU'VE JUST BEEN TRAVELING UP THROUGH ALL THOSE LEVELS?
I'M LOOKING FOR PRE-MUTATION GENES.
IT'S DESERTED HERE UNTIL YOU GET A FEW FLOORS UP.
BUT I'M GUESSING IT WAS LIKE THAT ALL THE WAY UP HERE FOR YOU, WASN'T IT?

TAKE HIS SATCHEL, TOO.

THUUMP

YOU'RE FREE TO GO WHERE YOU LIKE, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HEADING DOWN.

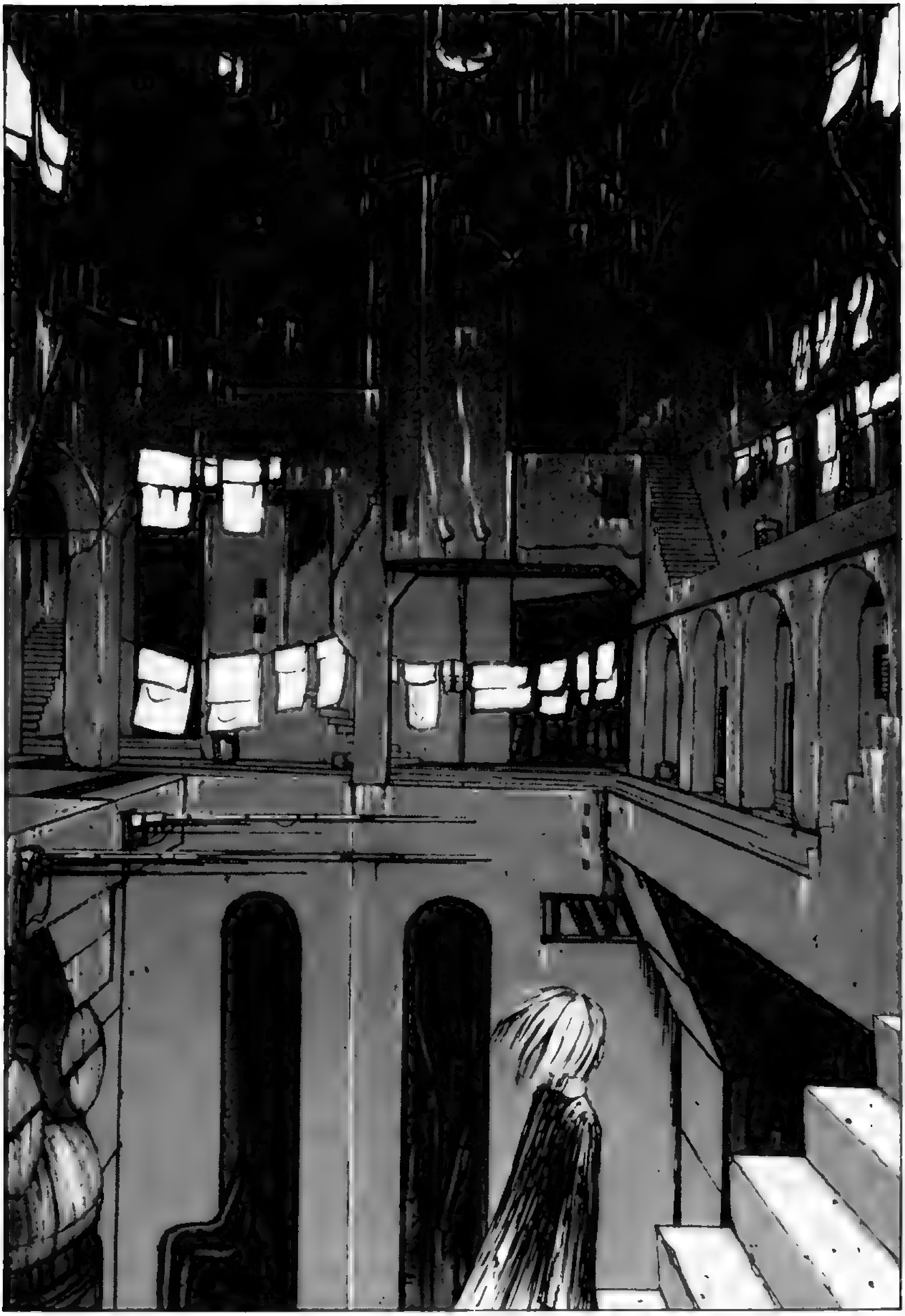
BLATTA
BLATTA
DOM
DOM
DOM
DOM
BA
BA
BA
BA

BNG
TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK
ガ ガ ガ
ガ
ガ ガ ガ
TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK

BLA-BLAST
TAGGA
TAGGA
TAGGA
TAGGA
ガガガガガ

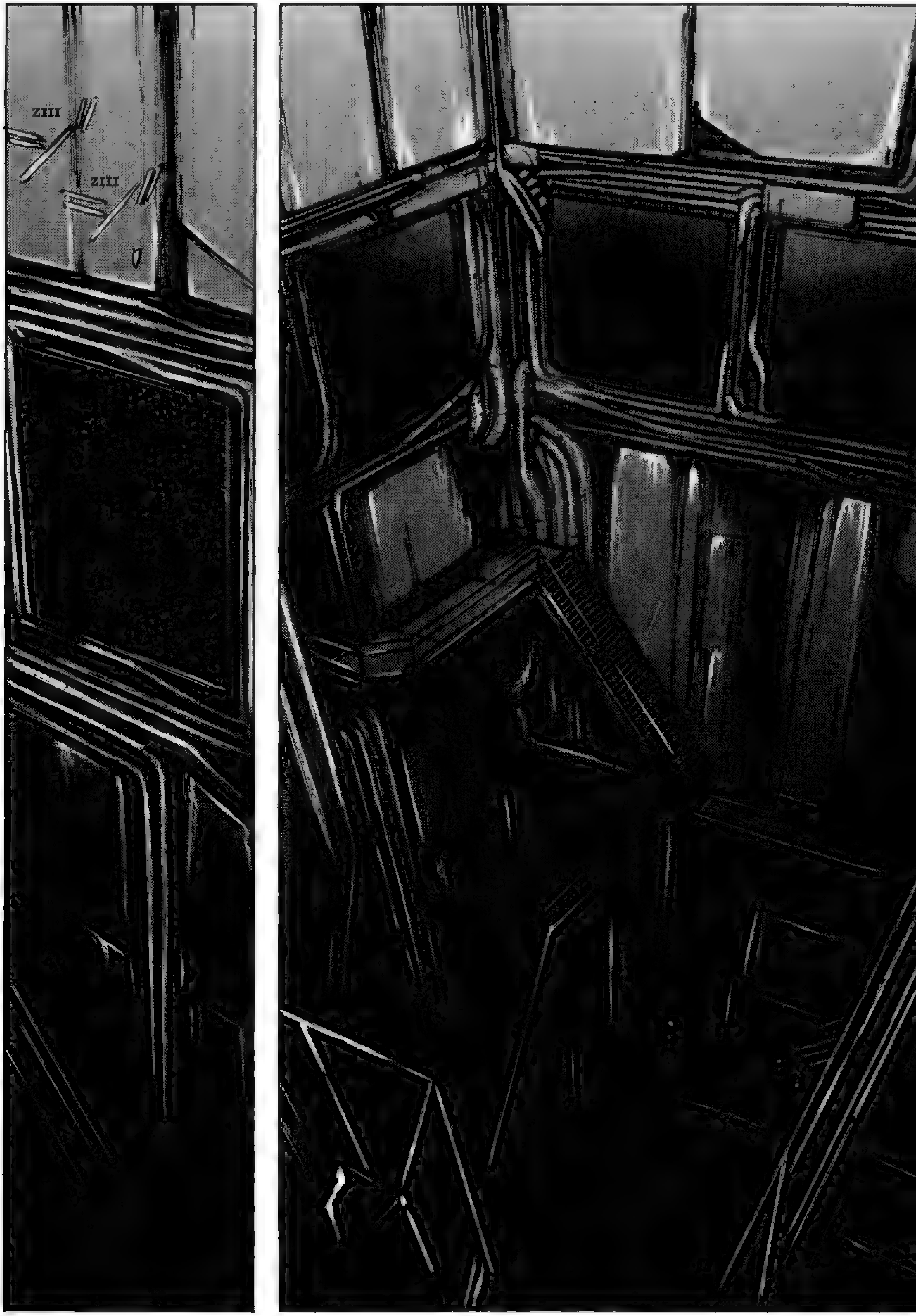
ZSUT
BLAM! BLAM!
ドンド

SMILE

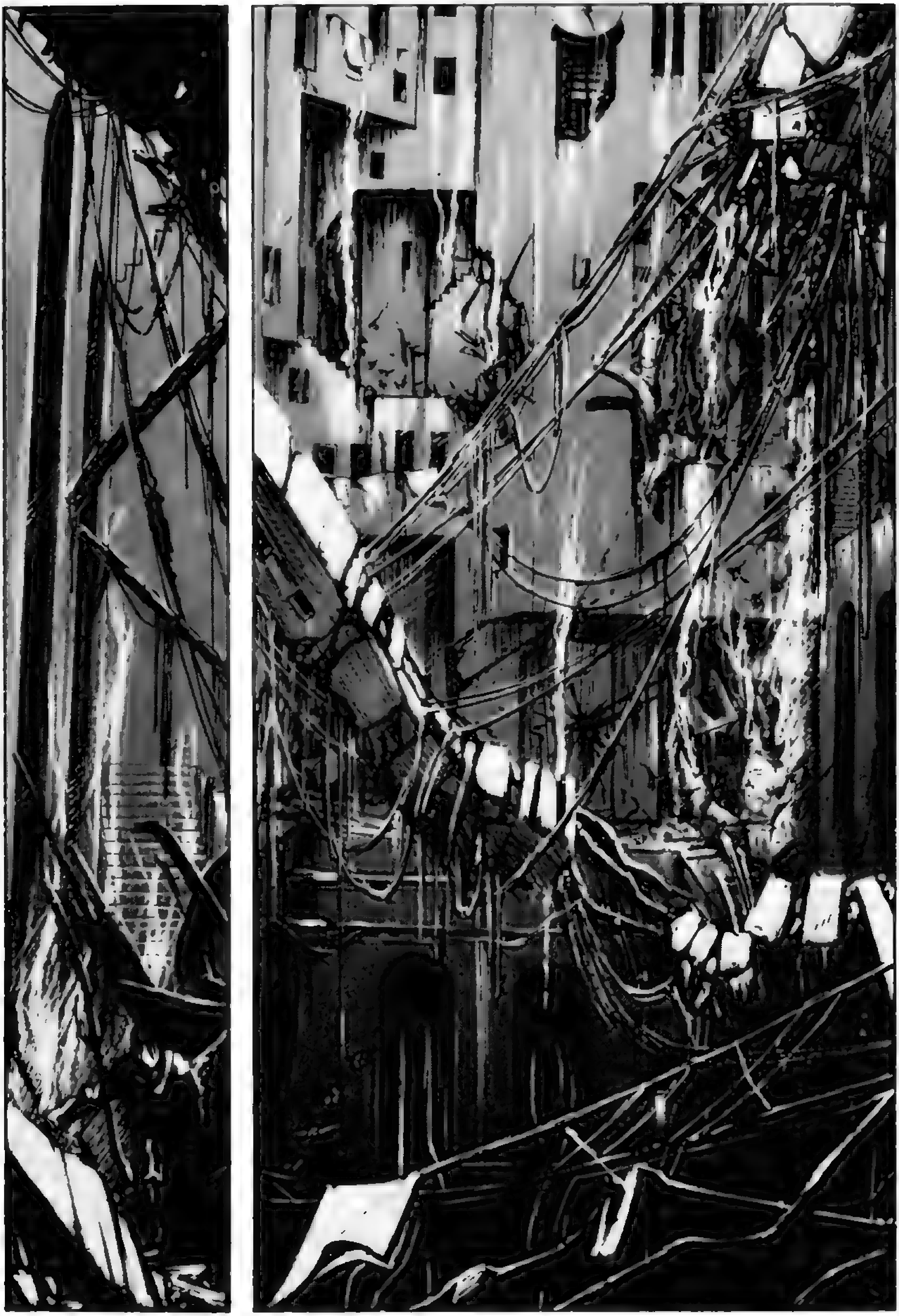


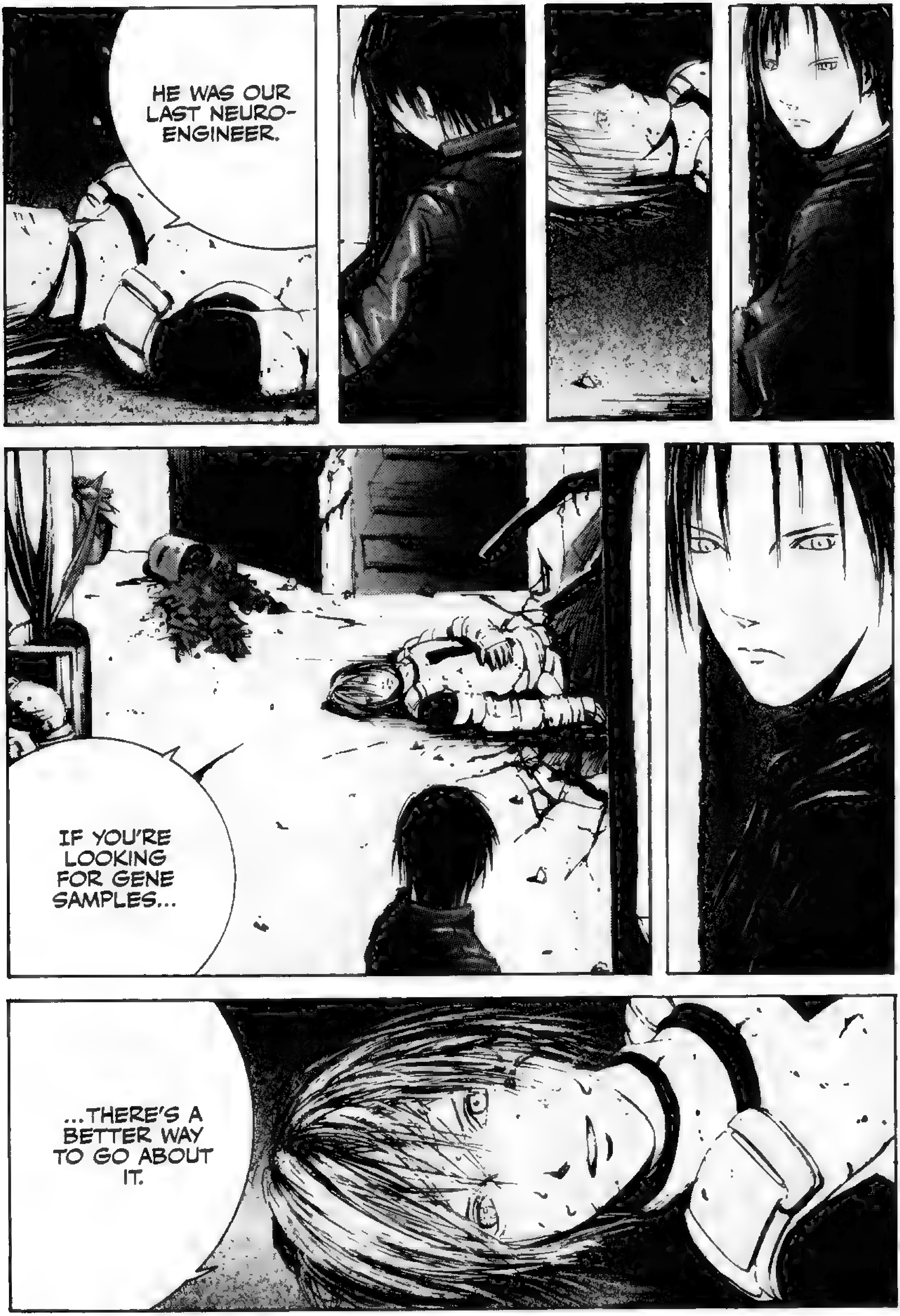
LOG.4@END

LOG .5 - Escape

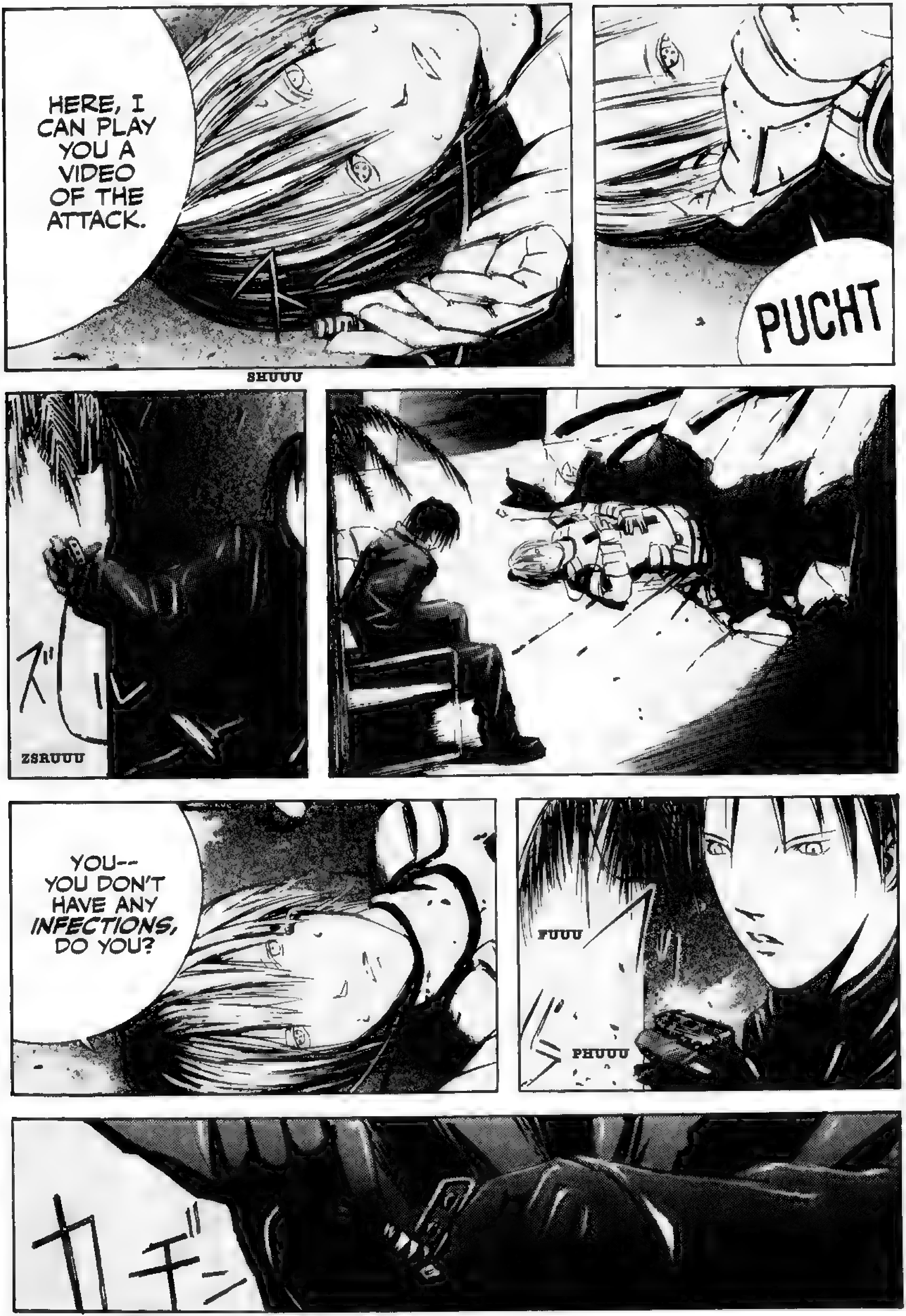

ZIII
ZIII

KRMB
TRMB




HE WAS OUR LAST NEURO-ENGINEER.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GENE SAMPLES...
...THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO GO ABOUT IT.

WE HAVE FAMILY GENETIC RECORDS DATING BACK GENERATIONS.
I CAN MAKE COPIES OF WHATEVER YOU WANT.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO FOR THEM?
THERE IS AN OUTPOST NEARBY WHERE THE RECORDS ARE STORED.
TAKE ME THERE AND I'LL HELP YOU.
WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE?

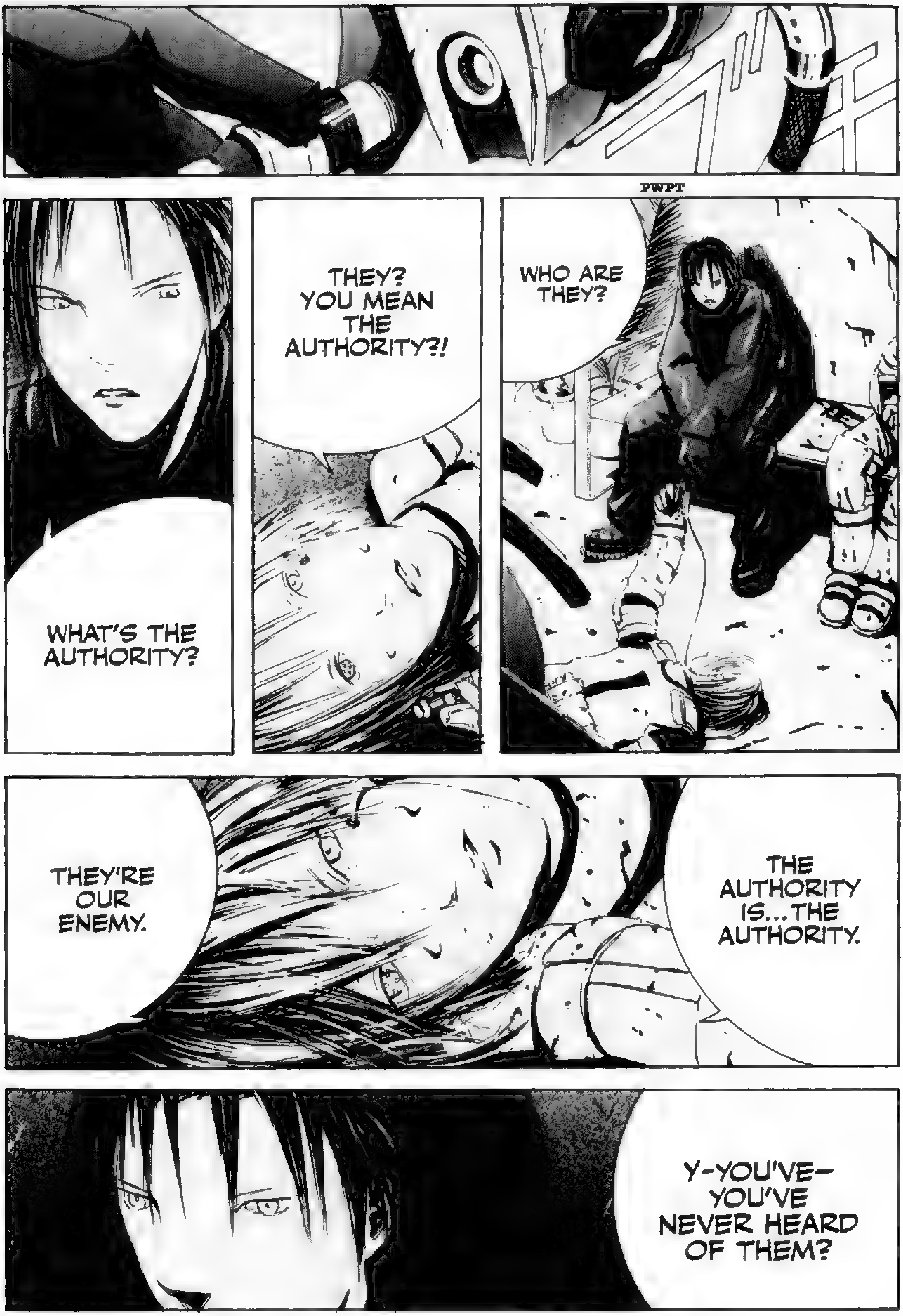

PUCHT
HERE, I CAN PLAY YOU A VIDEO OF THE ATTACK.
SHUUU
ズル
ZSRUUU
FUUU
PHUUU
YOU-- YOU DON'T HAVE ANY *INFECTIONS*, DO YOU?
カヂン
CLK

ZSWRIP
NAILED HIM!!

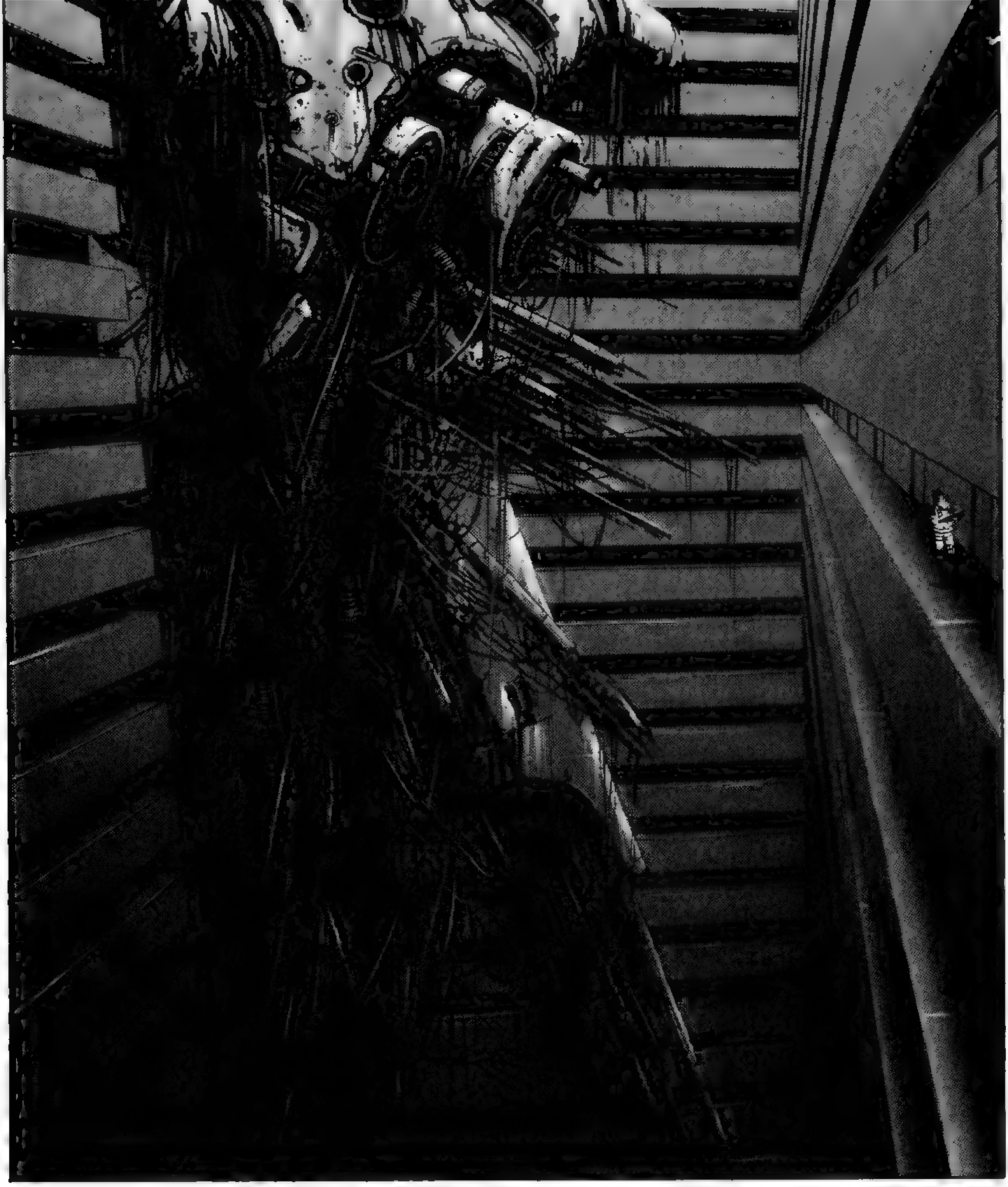
HAFF
HAFF
HEEZEN!! OVER HERE! TOFY IS STILL ALIVE!
GRAMS!! HURRY UP AND GET OVER HERE!
THUUM
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
ZZZ ZZZIRK
ZA ZA ZA ZA

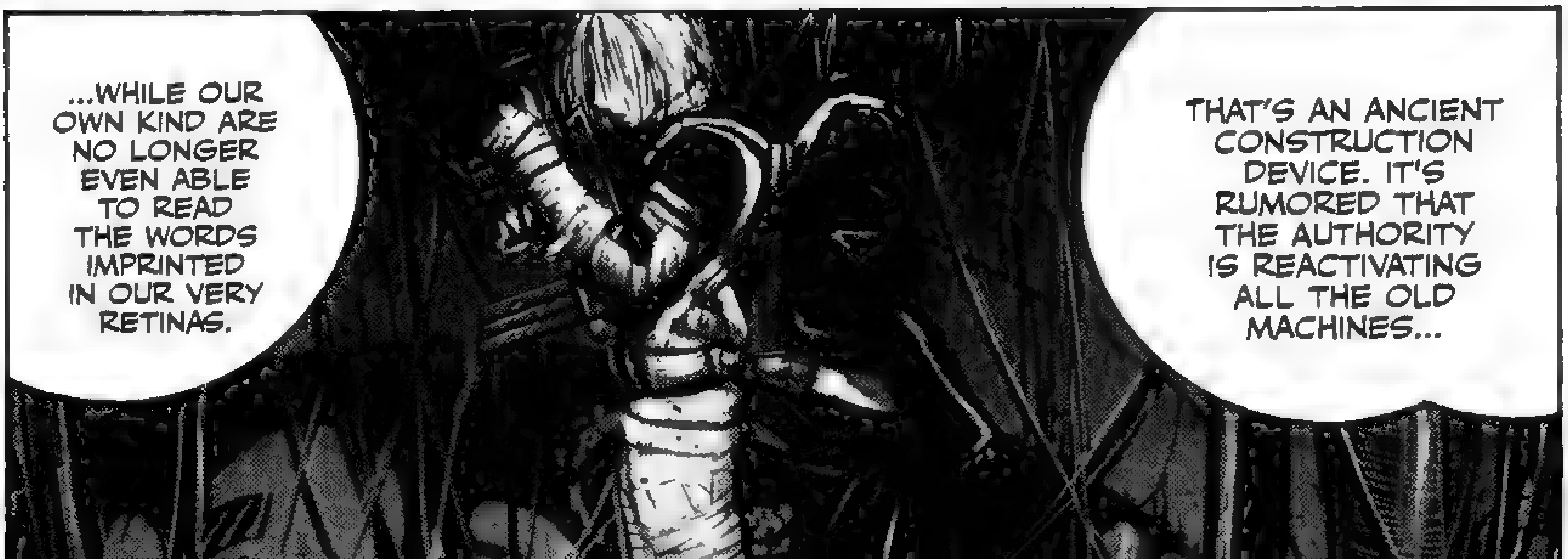
BWOOM

THNK
HAFF
HAFF
KA-CHNK
KA-PING
BLATTA-BLATTA-BLATTA

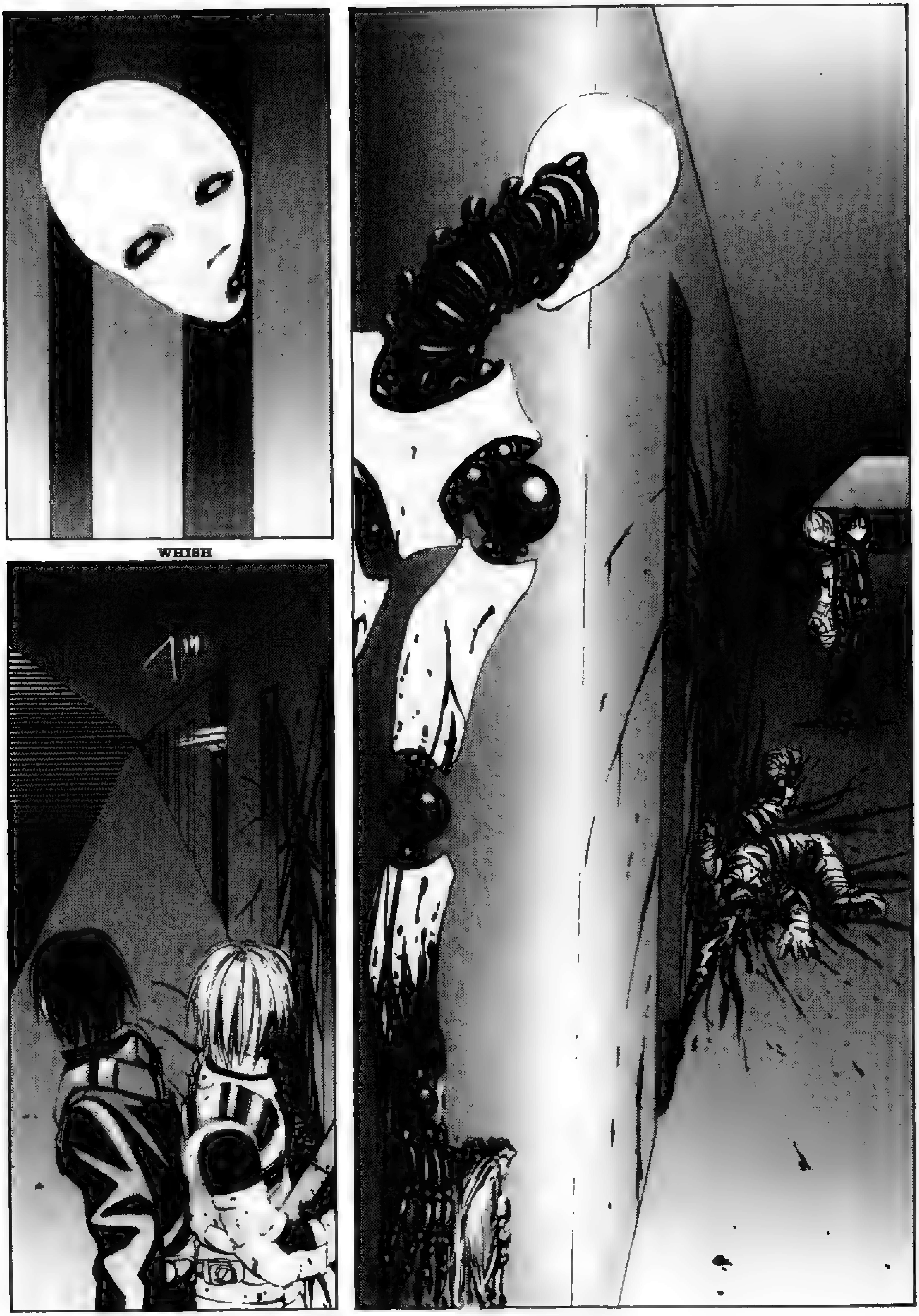

PWPT
WHO ARE THEY?
THEY? YOU MEAN THE AUTHORITY?!
WHAT'S THE AUTHORITY?
THE AUTHORITY IS...THE AUTHORITY.
THEY'RE OUR ENEMY.
Y-YOU'VE- YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM?

I'M READING AUTHORITY EXTERMINATORS ALL AROUND US.
BUT MY SYSTEMS ARE TOO DAMAGED TO PINPOINT THEM.
JA-KI
ジャキッ
THEIR EXTERIORS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO PENETRATE.
IF WE COME ACROSS ANY...JUST RUN.




THAT'S AN ANCIENT CONSTRUCTION DEVICE. IT'S RUMORED THAT THE AUTHORITY IS REACTIVATING ALL THE OLD MACHINES...
...WHILE OUR OWN KIND ARE NO LONGER EVEN ABLE TO READ THE WORDS IMPRINTED IN OUR VERY RETINAS.

DAMN. HE COULDN'T GET AWAY IN TIME.


WHISH
ア"

SHREEK
キュ

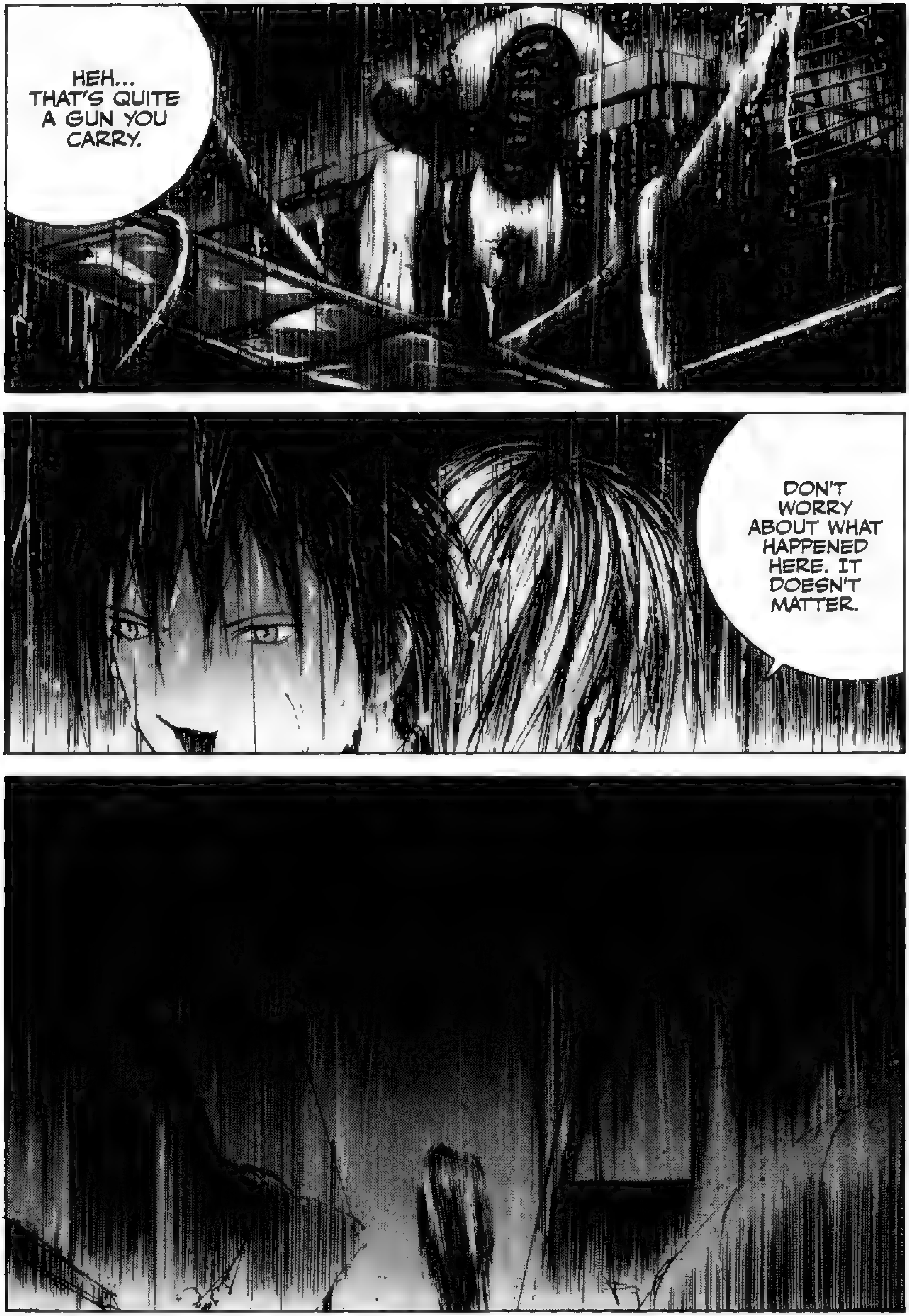
CLK
CLK
CLK
CLK
CLK
SHOOMF
ZSUWF

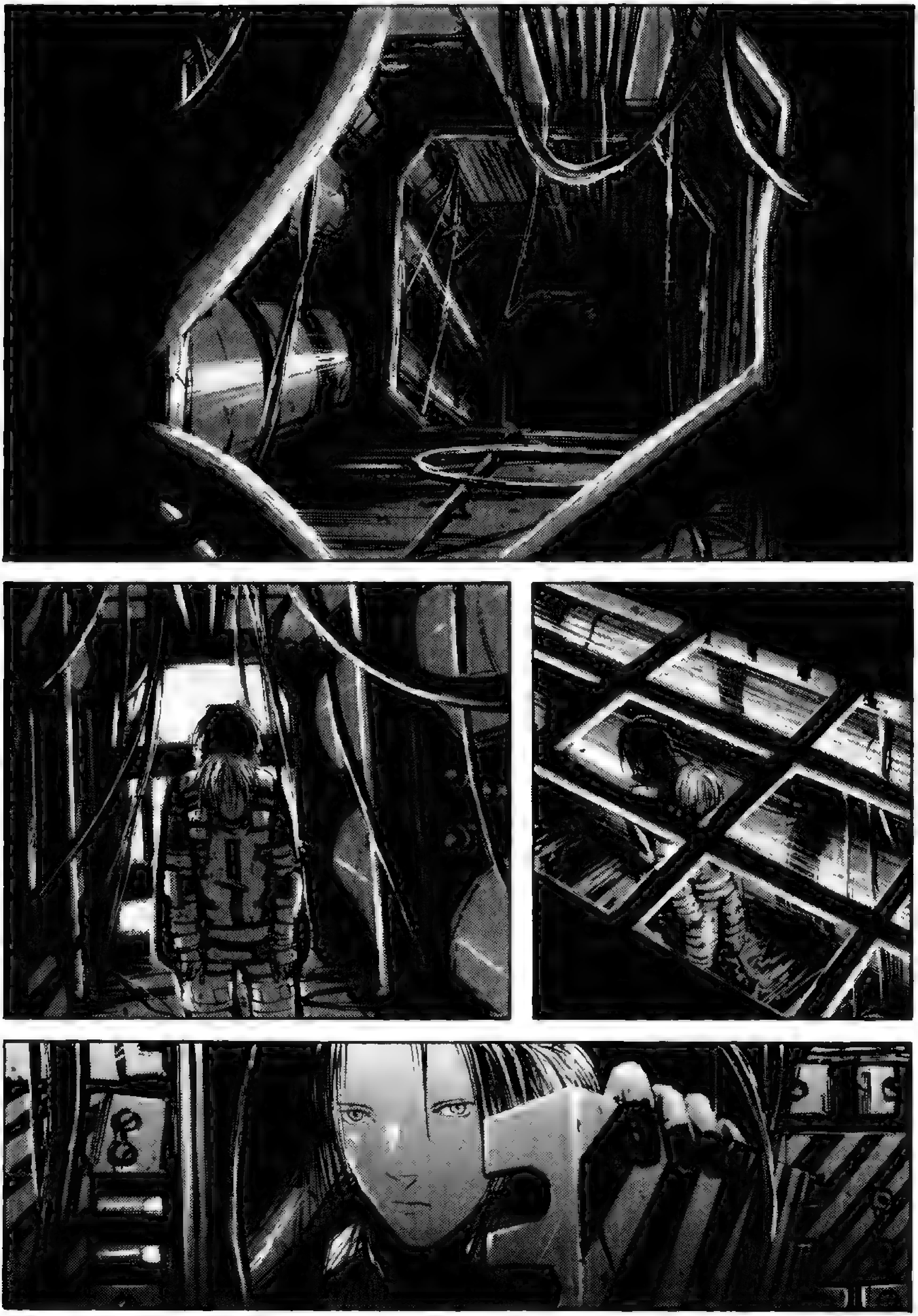
DURRGH

CRSSH
SQURIGSH
THNK

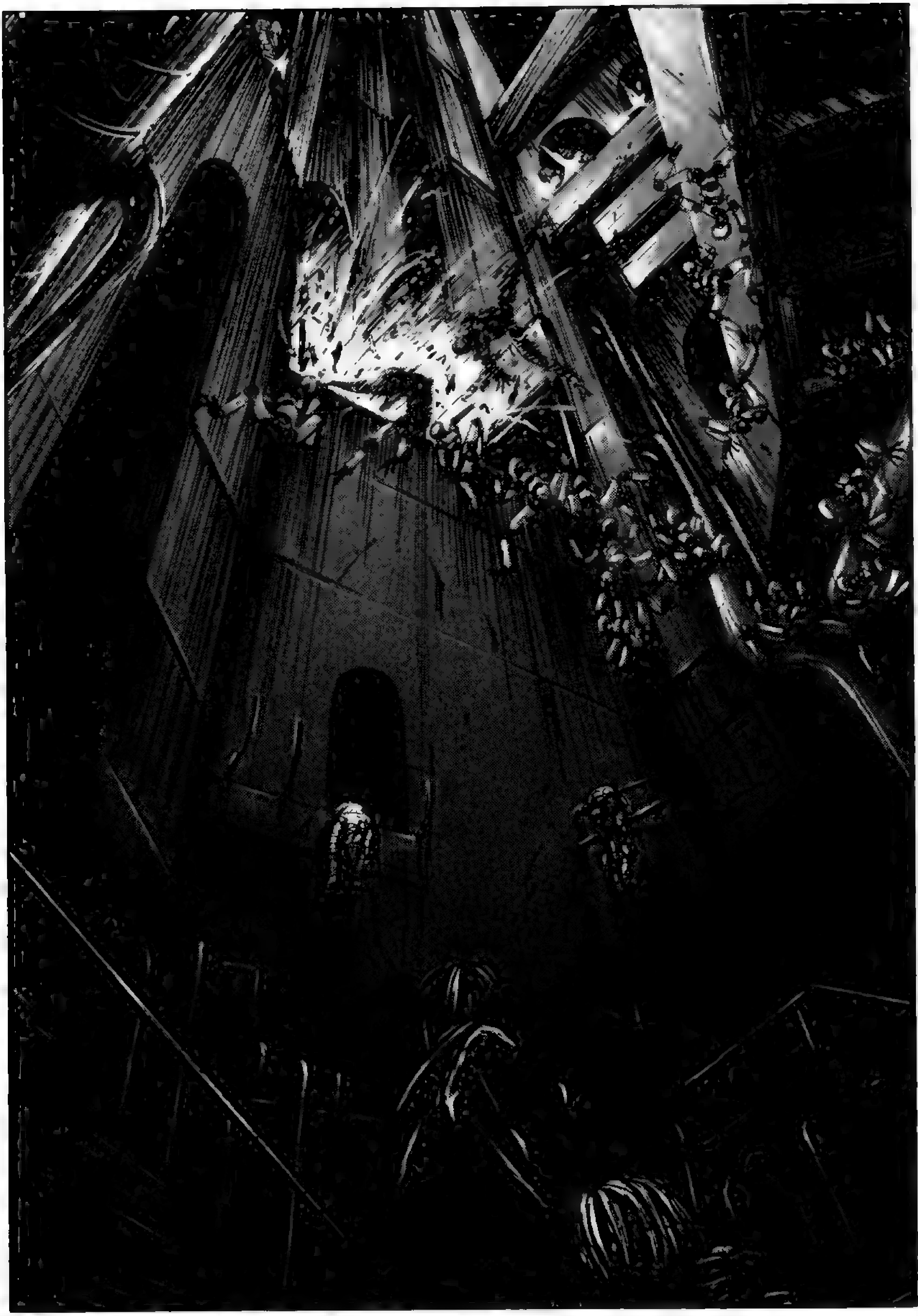
BOOM
LURDURDUR

SHAAA


HEH... THAT'S QUITE A GUN YOU CARRY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE. IT DOESN'T MATTER.

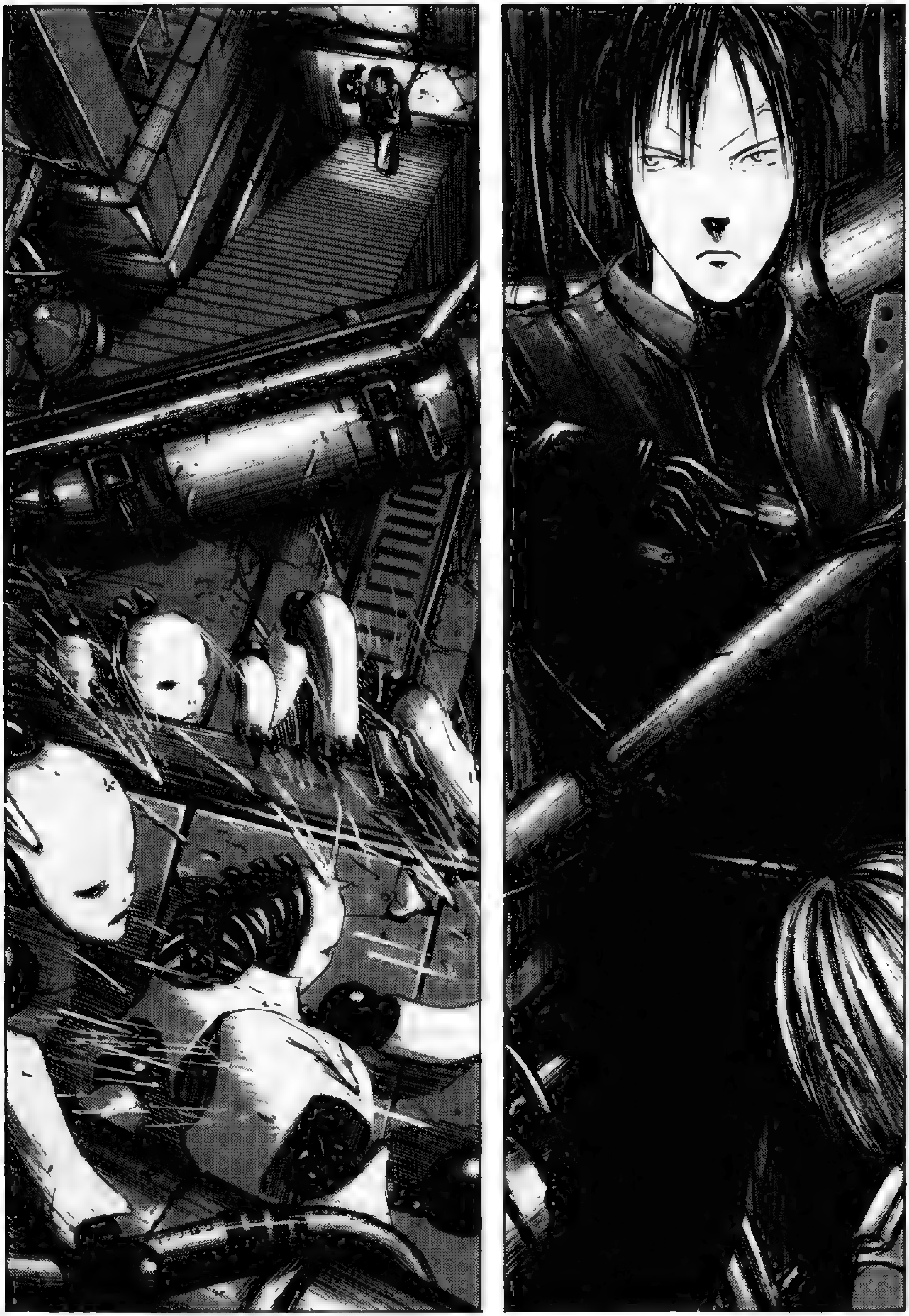


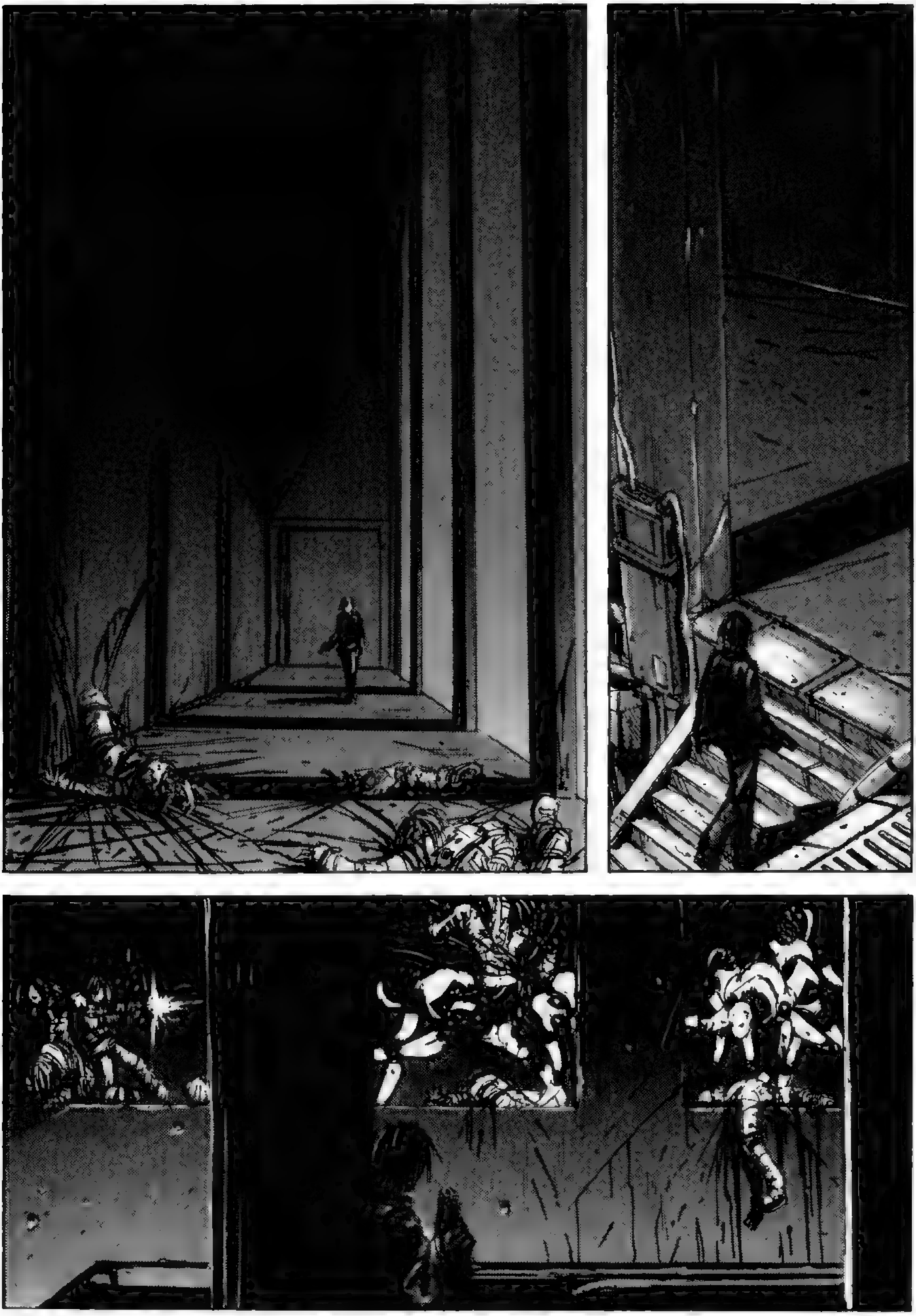
IS THIS THE PLACE?
HEY.



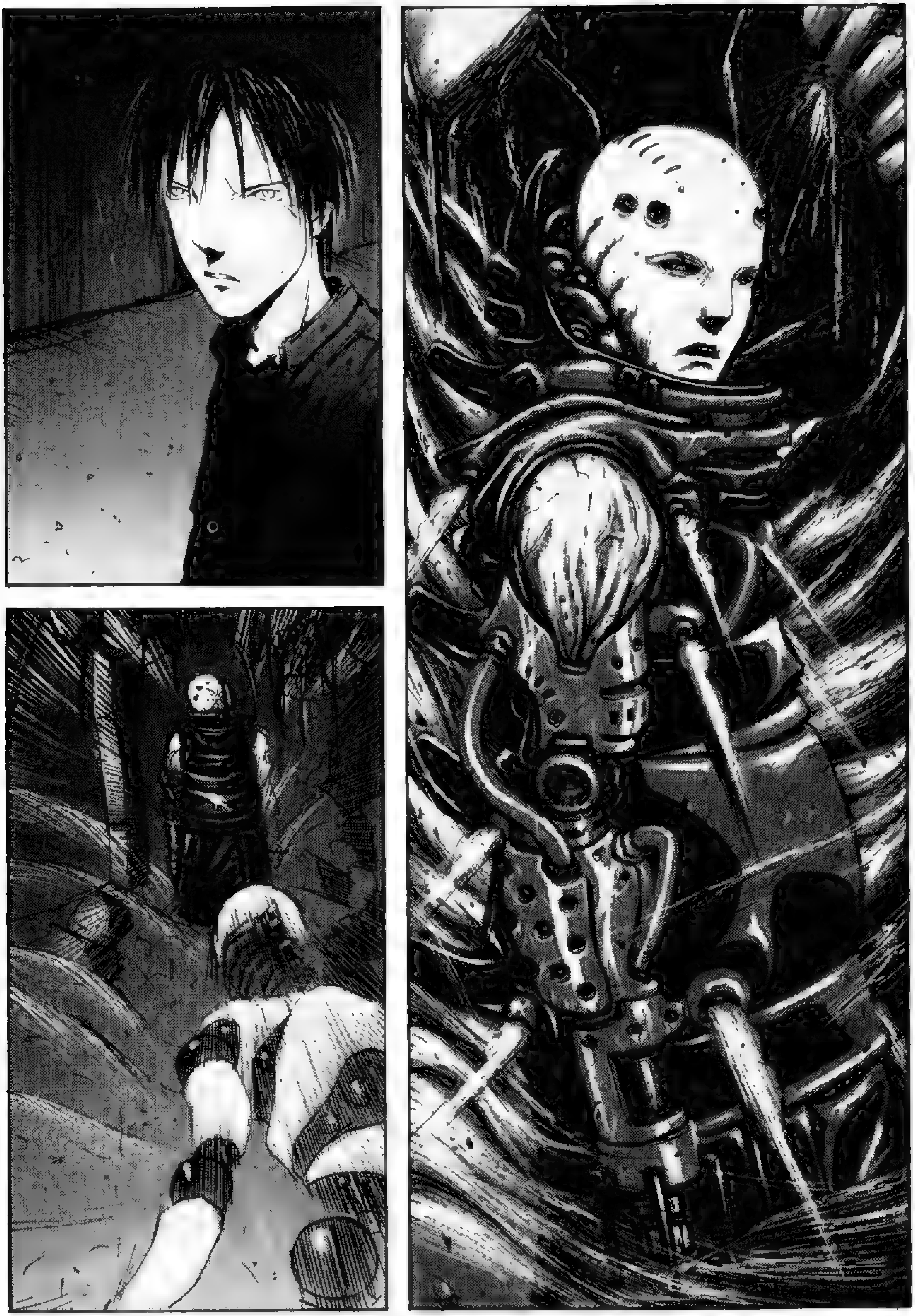
LOG.5@END

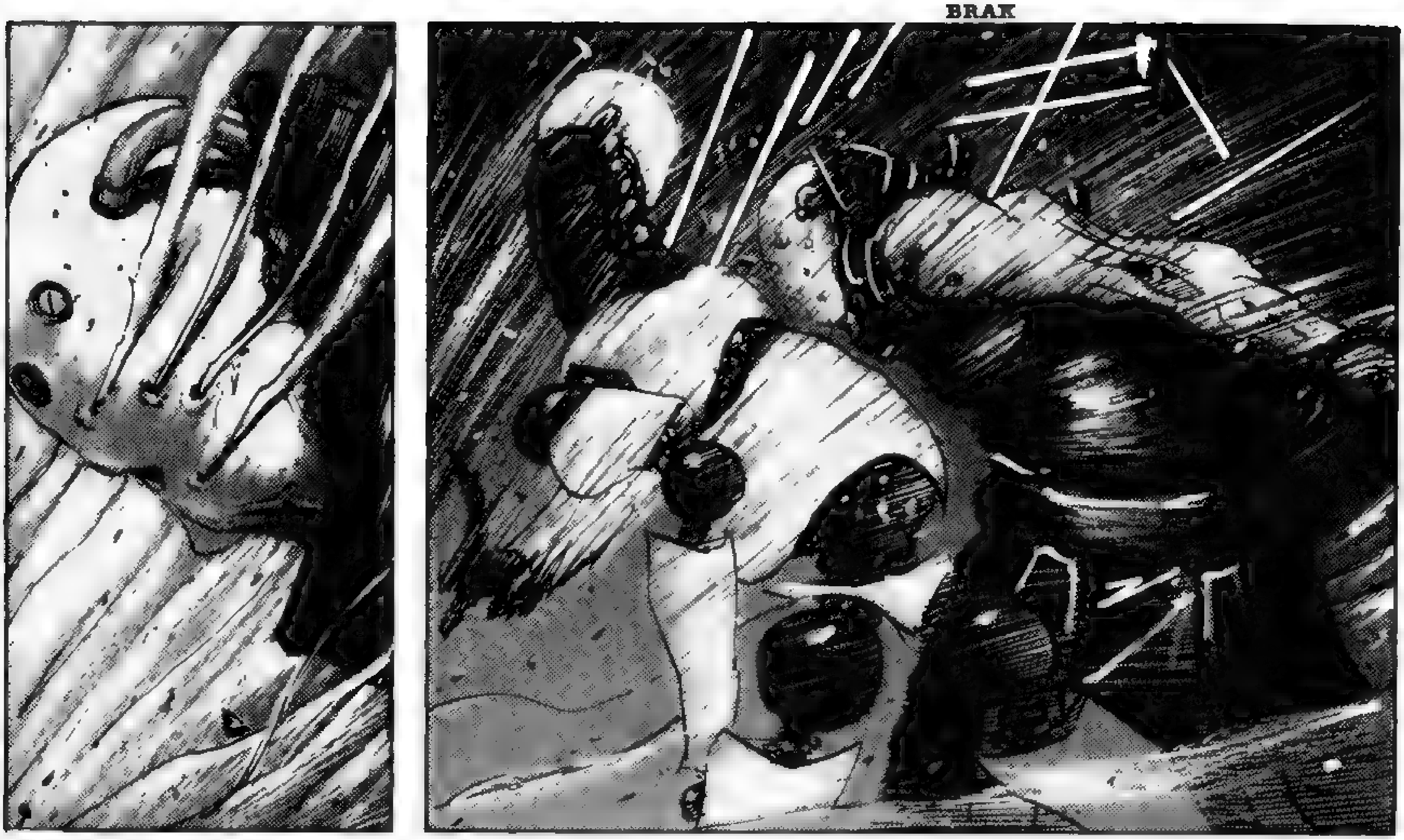
LOG.6 - Silicon Life

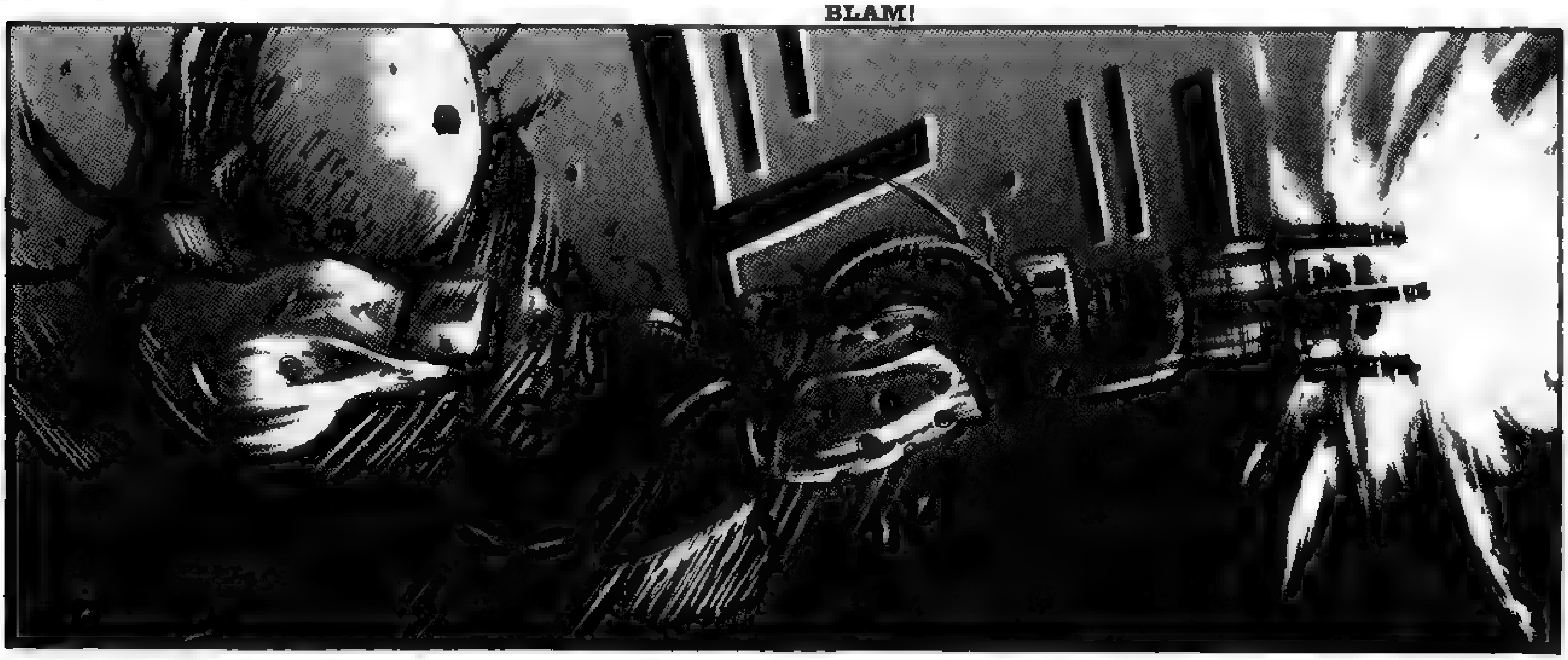


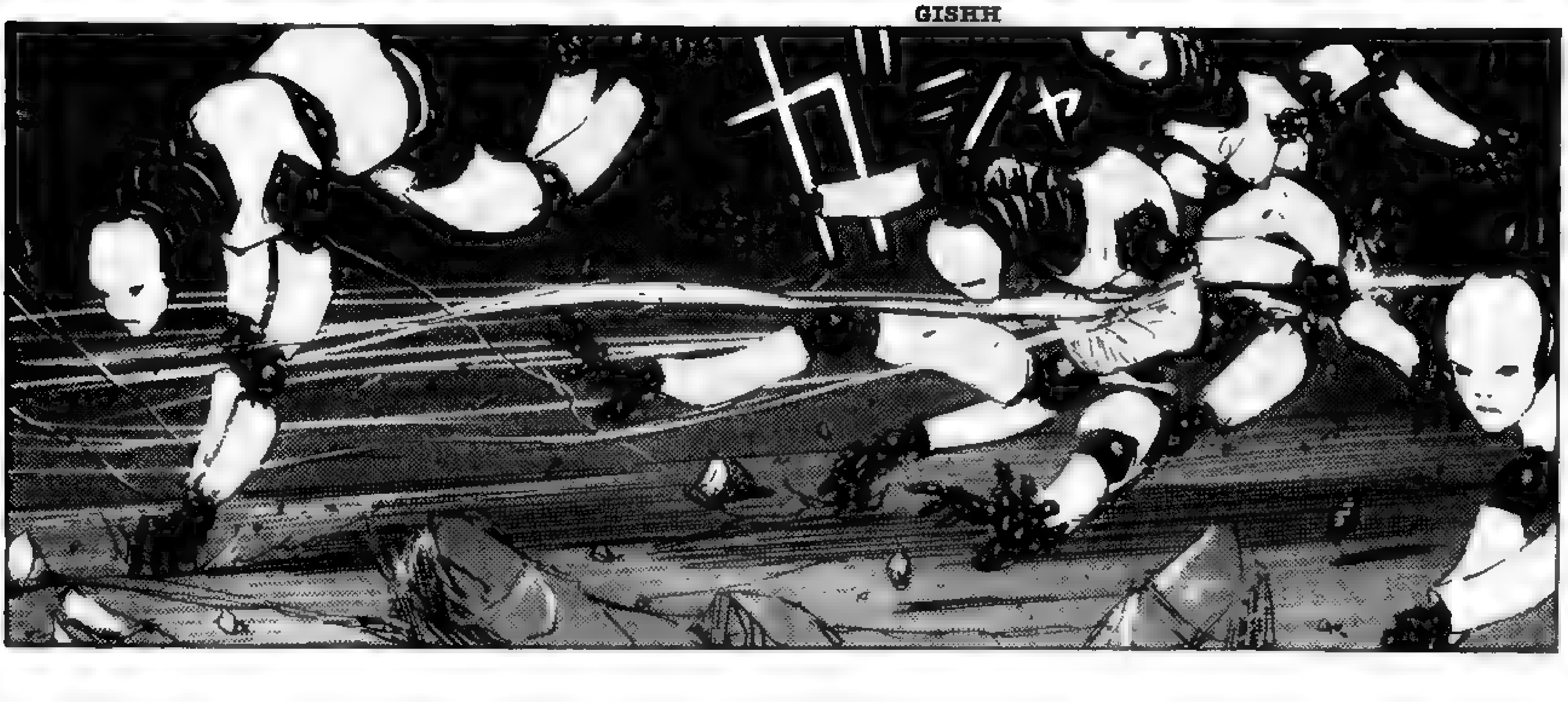


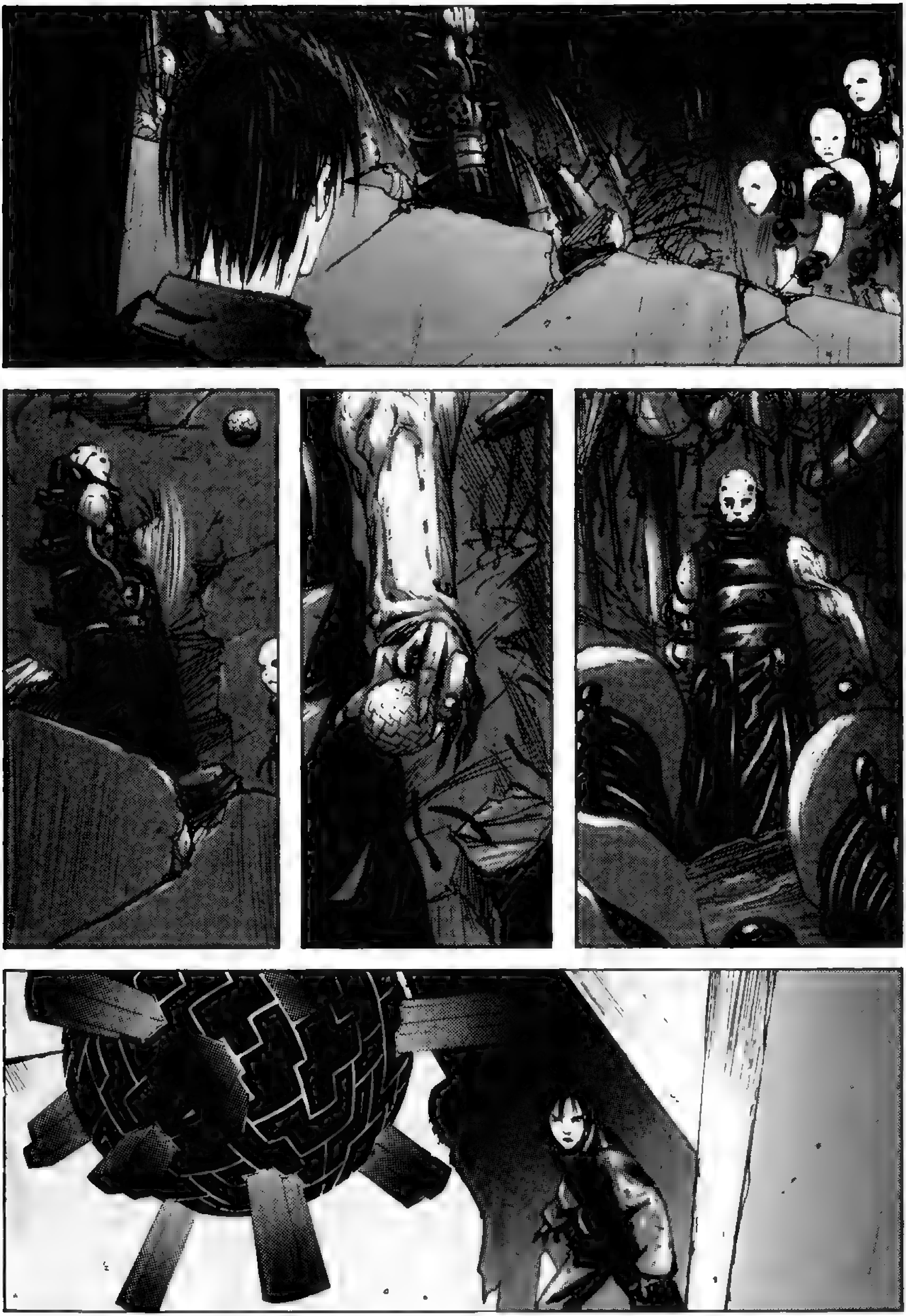
DZSUUU

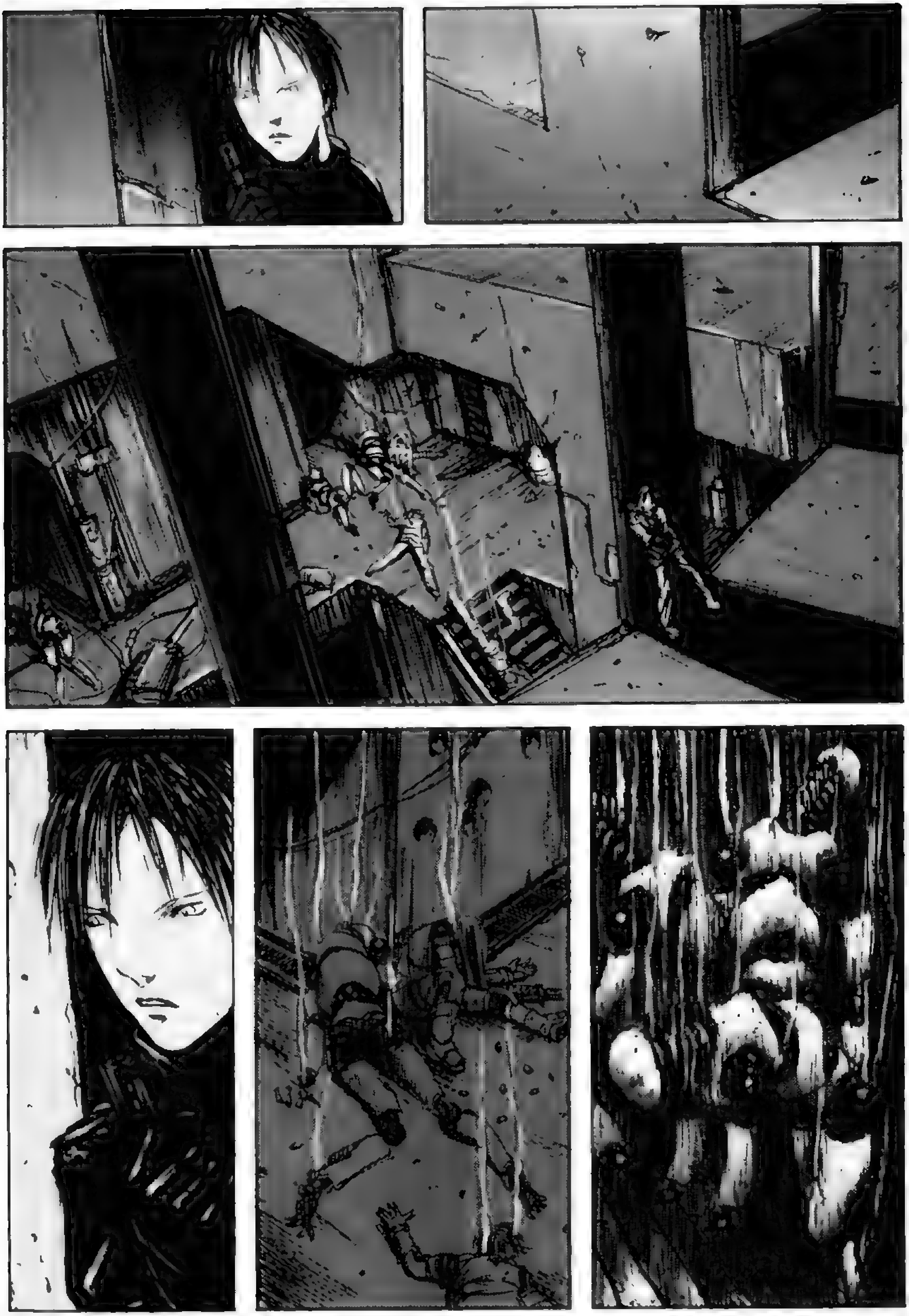


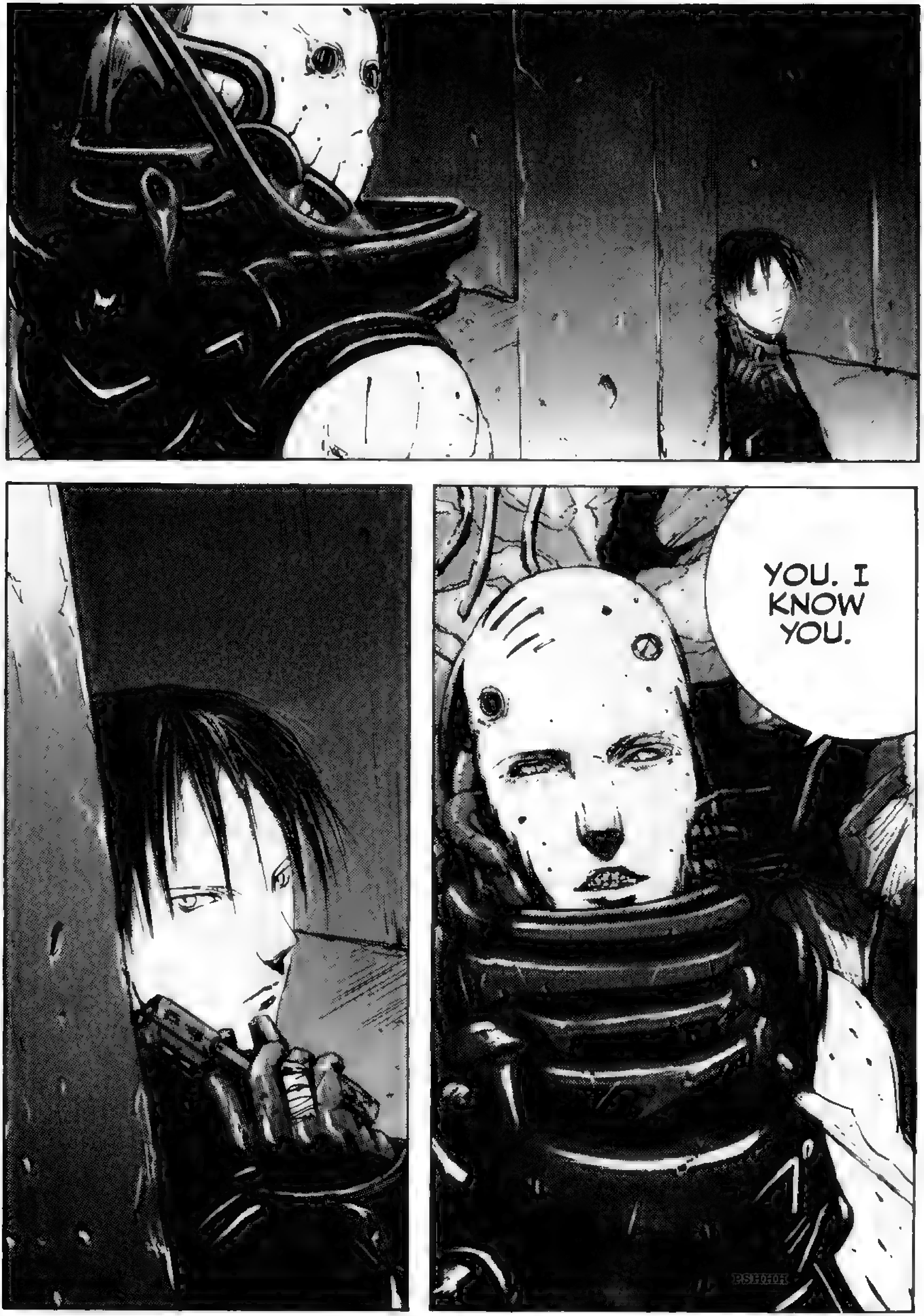

BRAK

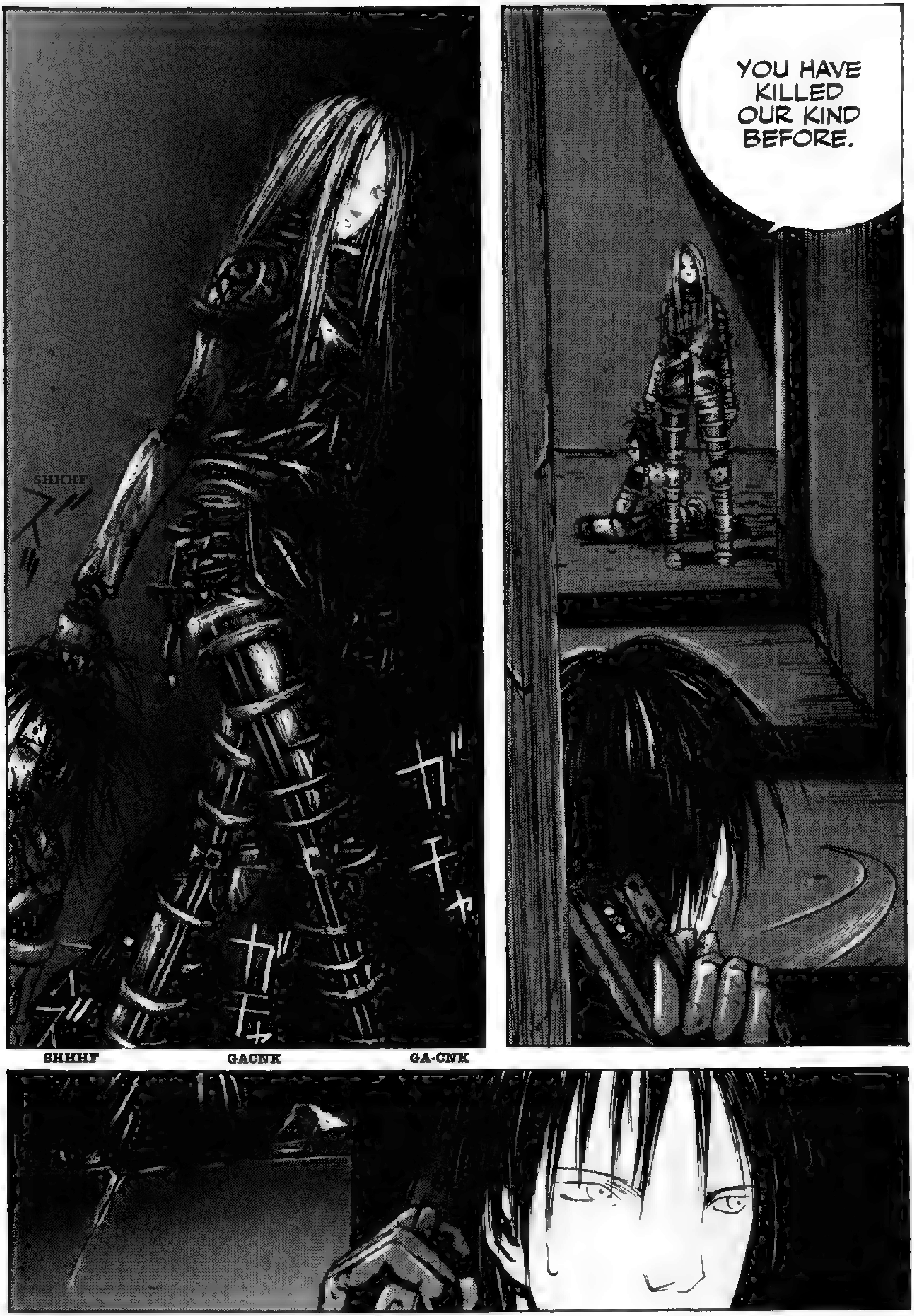

BLAM!

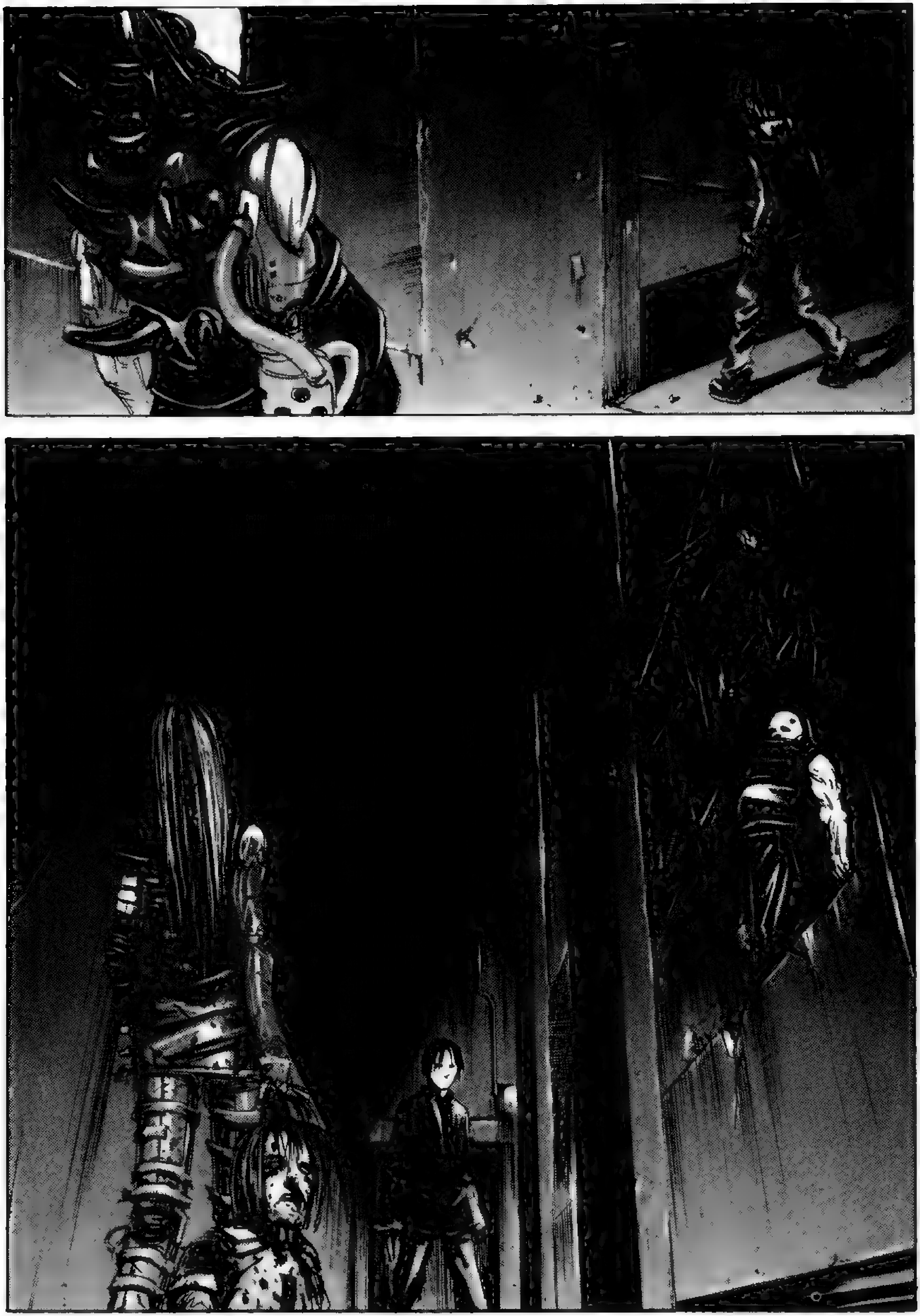

GISHH

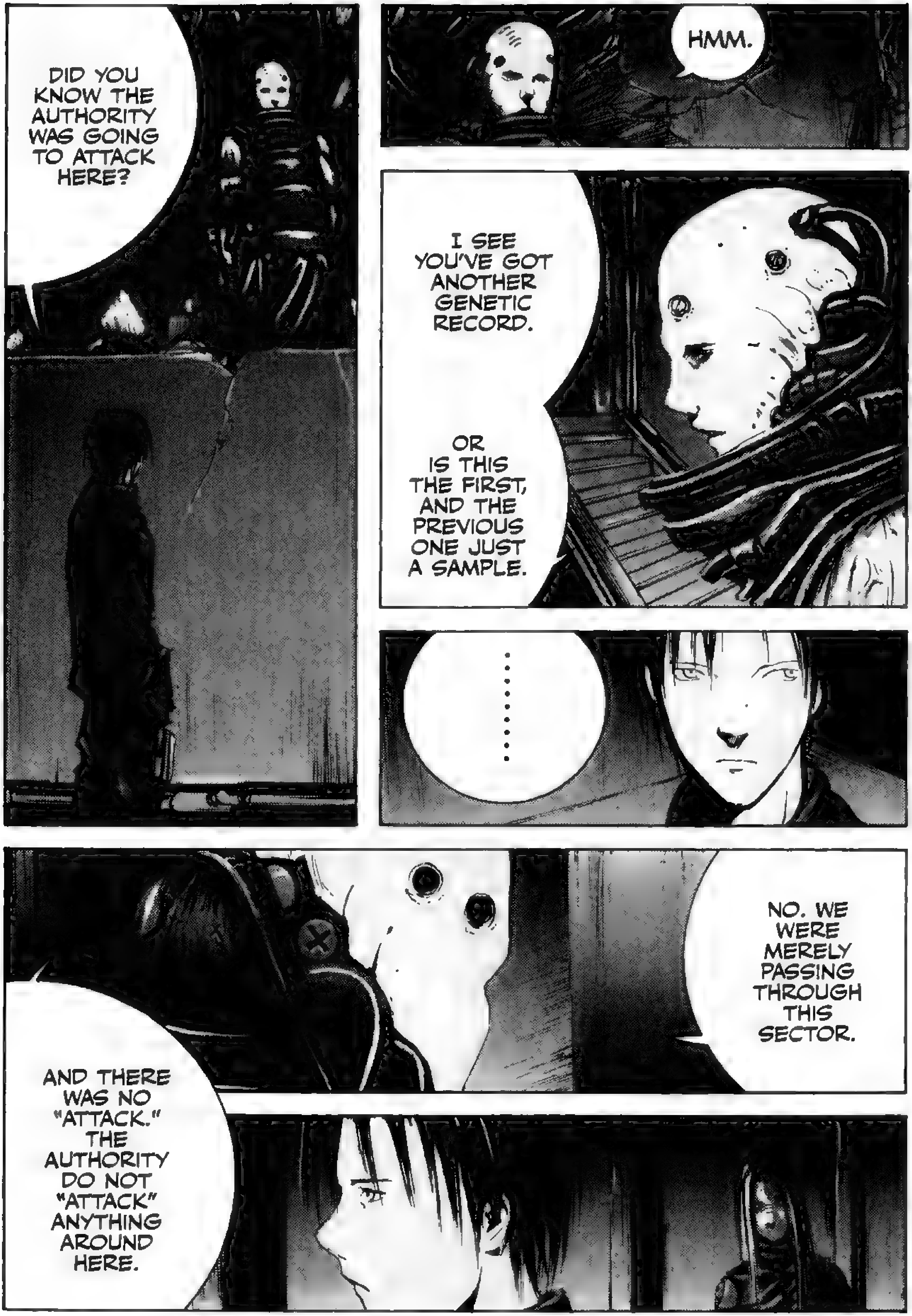


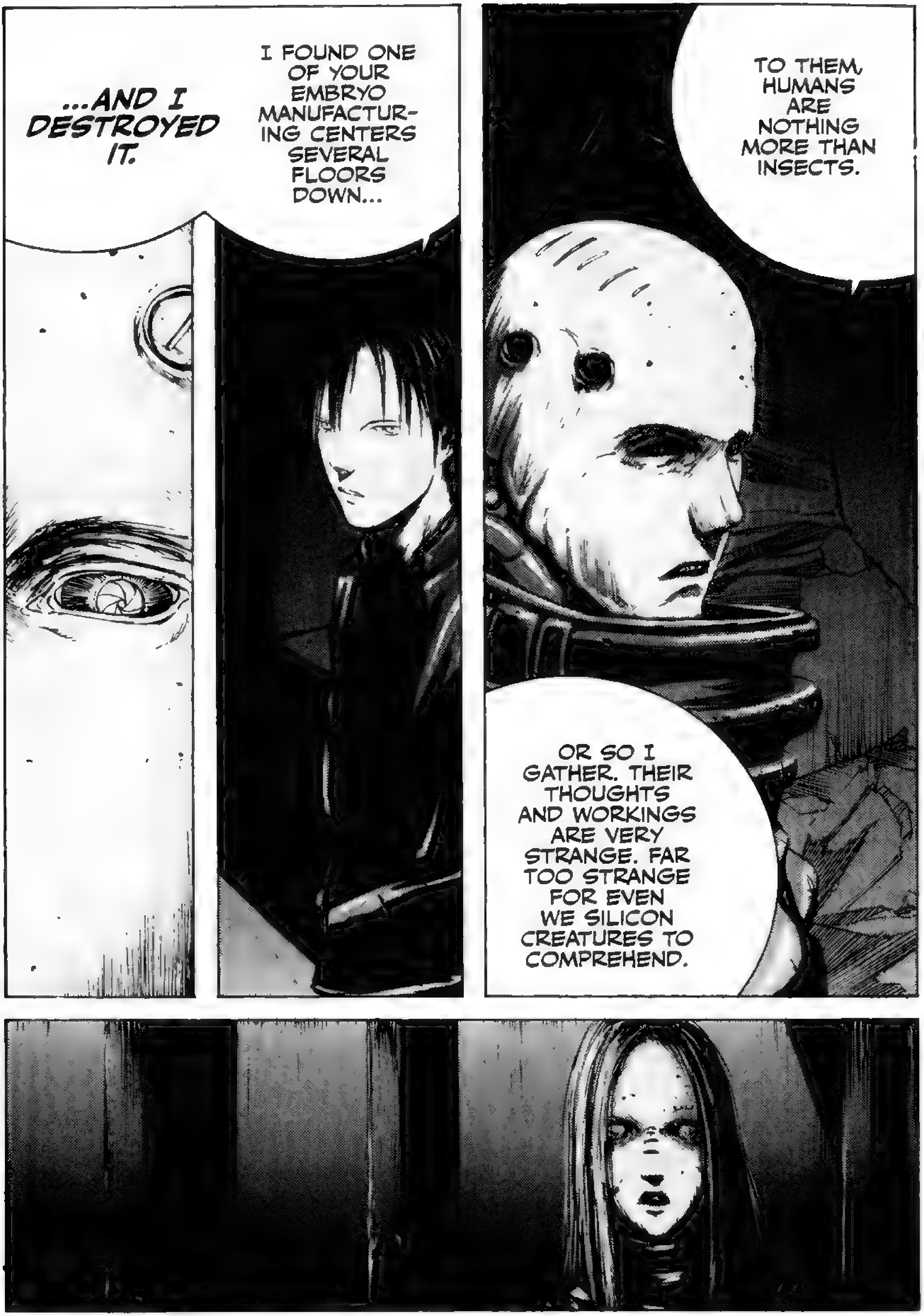


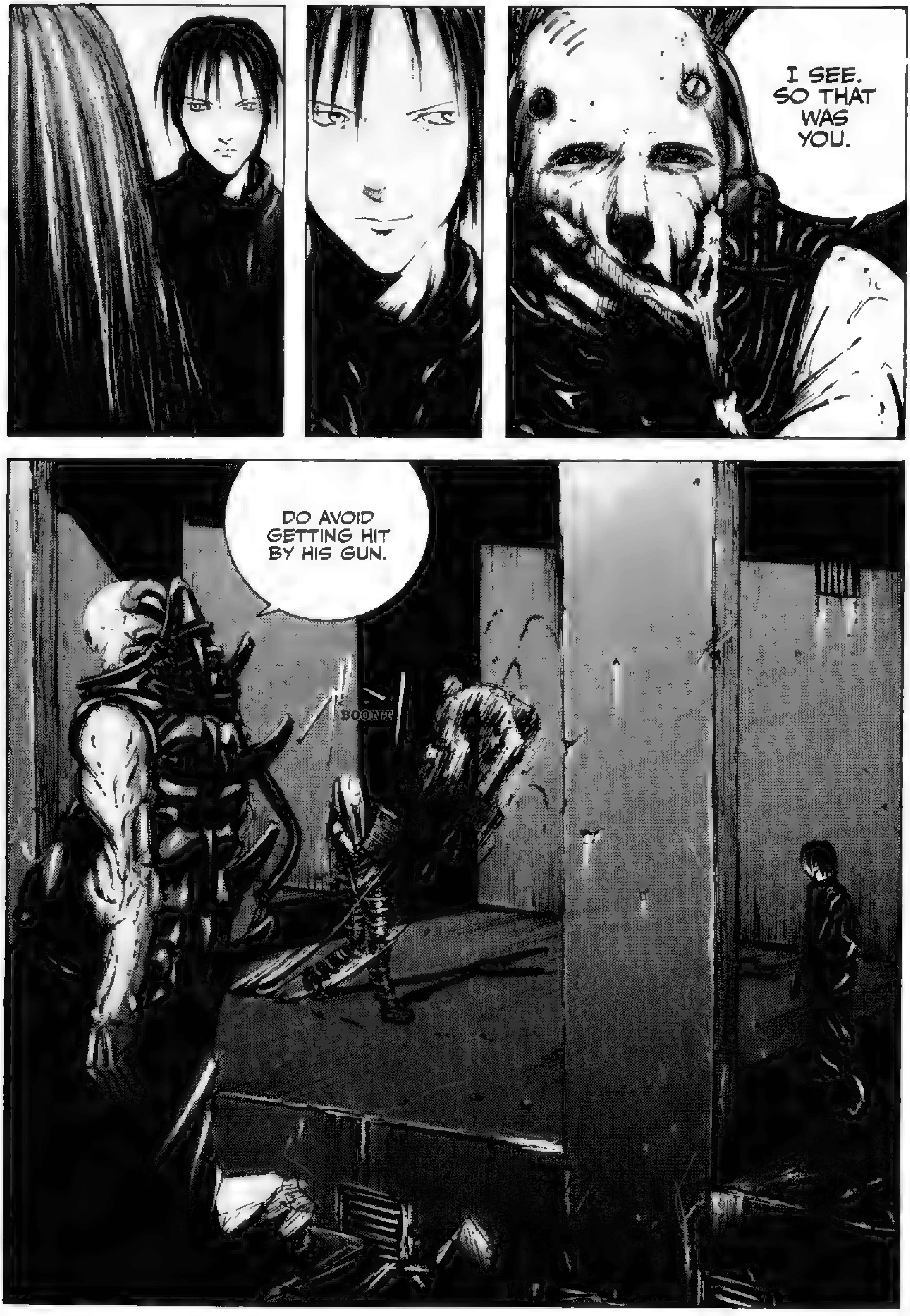

YOU. I KNOW YOU.
PSHHH

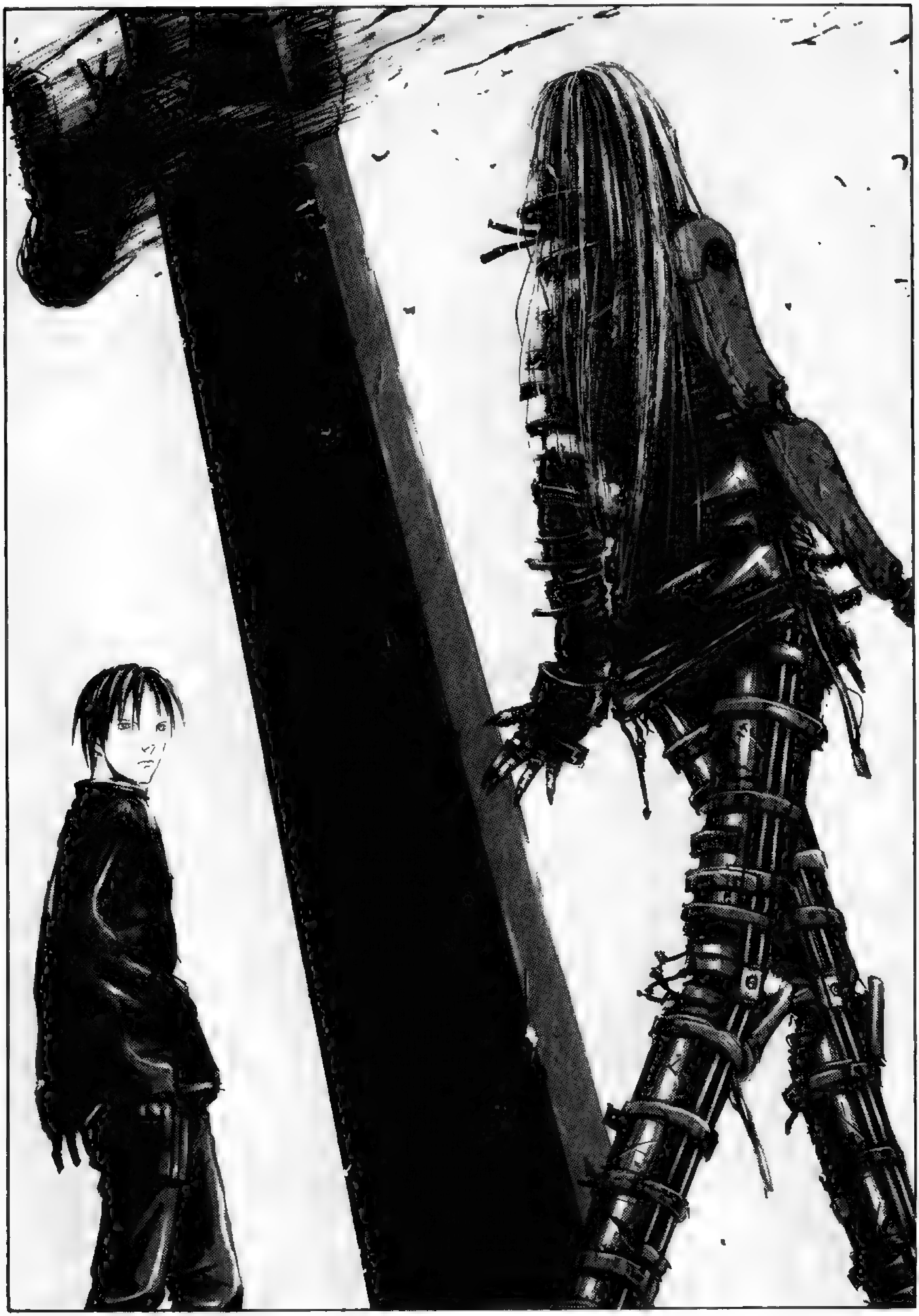

YOU HAVE KILLED OUR KIND BEFORE.
SHHHF
ズッ
ガチャ
ガチャ
SHHHF
GACNK
GA-CNK




HMM.
I SEE YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER GENETIC RECORD.
OR IS THIS THE FIRST, AND THE PREVIOUS ONE JUST A SAMPLE.
....
DID YOU KNOW THE AUTHORITY WAS GOING TO ATTACK HERE?
NO. WE WERE MERELY PASSING THROUGH THIS SECTOR.
AND THERE WAS NO "ATTACK." THE AUTHORITY DO NOT "ATTACK" ANYTHING AROUND HERE.


TO THEM, HUMANS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN INSECTS.
OR SO I GATHER. THEIR THOUGHTS AND WORKINGS ARE VERY STRANGE. FAR TOO STRANGE FOR EVEN WE SILICON CREATURES TO COMPREHEND.
I FOUND ONE OF YOUR EMBRYO MANUFACTURING CENTERS SEVERAL FLOORS DOWN...
...AND I DESTROYED IT.

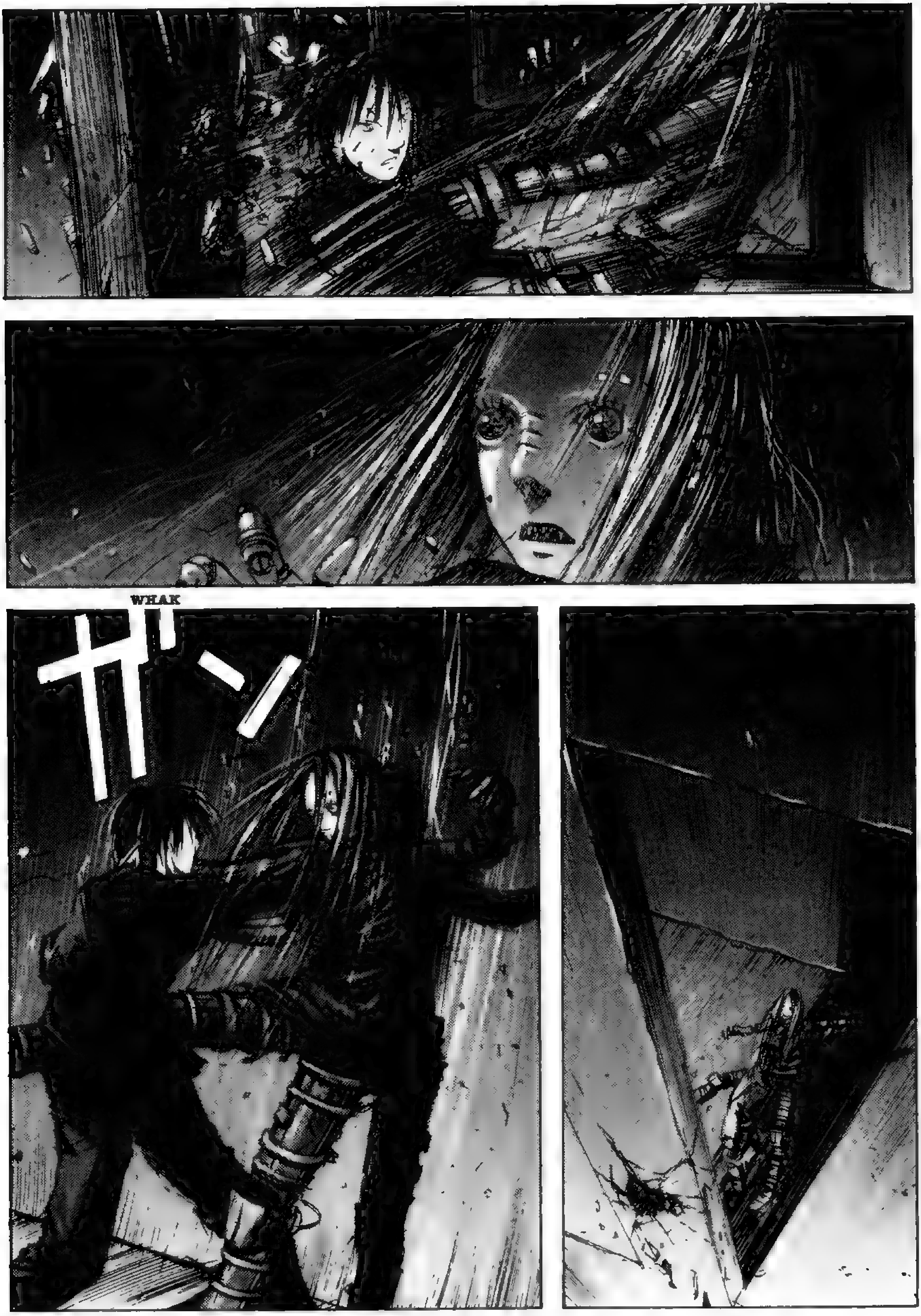

I SEE. SO THAT WAS YOU.
DO AVOID GETTING HIT BY HIS GUN.
BOONT

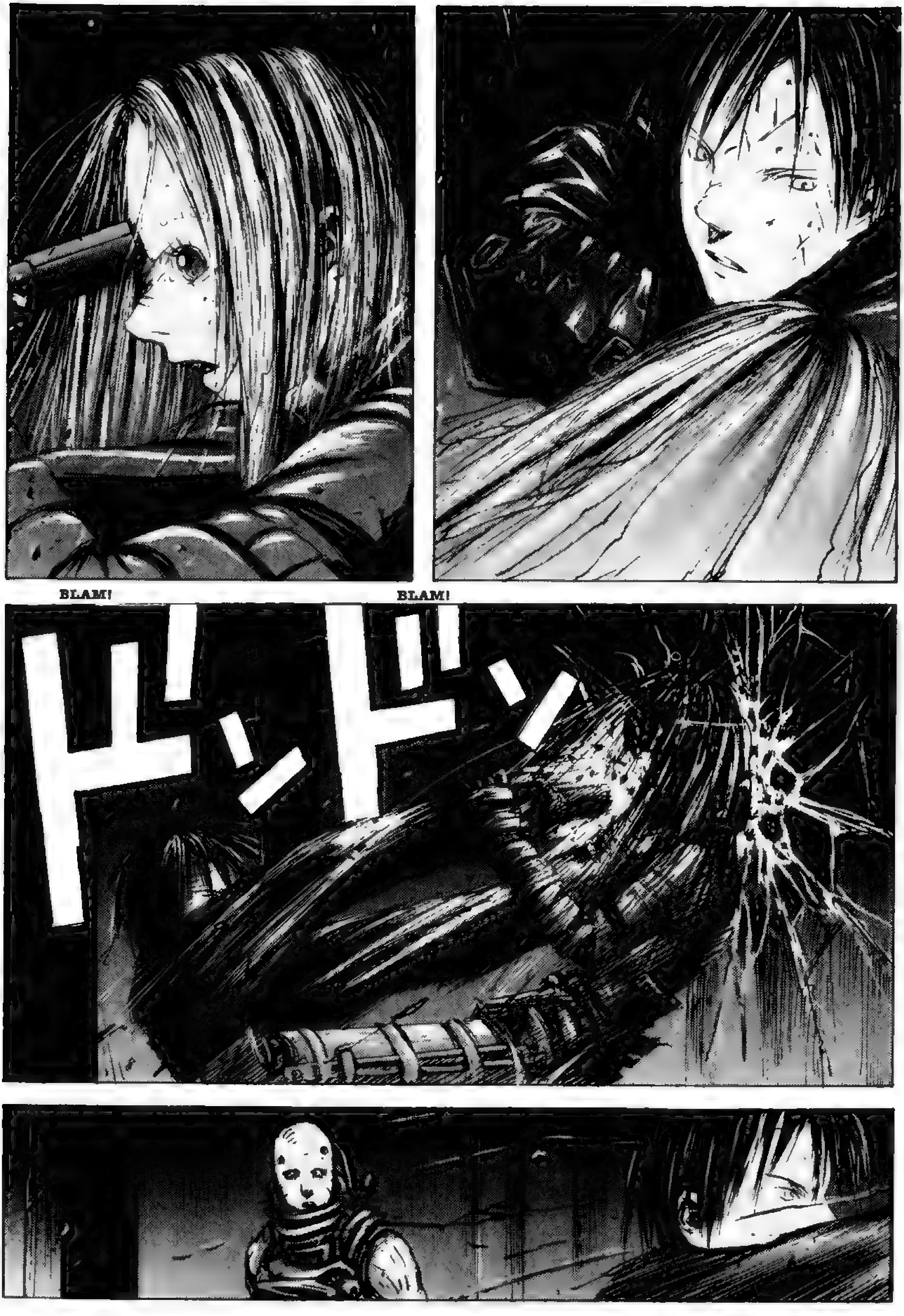


SPLITCH
ドス
ヒッ
HEH
ヒッ
HEH

CRAK
ゴキッ
ズザッ
WHUMP
THD
ゴッ

CRNK-CH
CRMB
WERE YOU ABLE TO FIND THE RECORD?
SWHOOSH
FWP


WHAK
ガン


BLAM!
BLAM!
ドッドッ

© CRMB

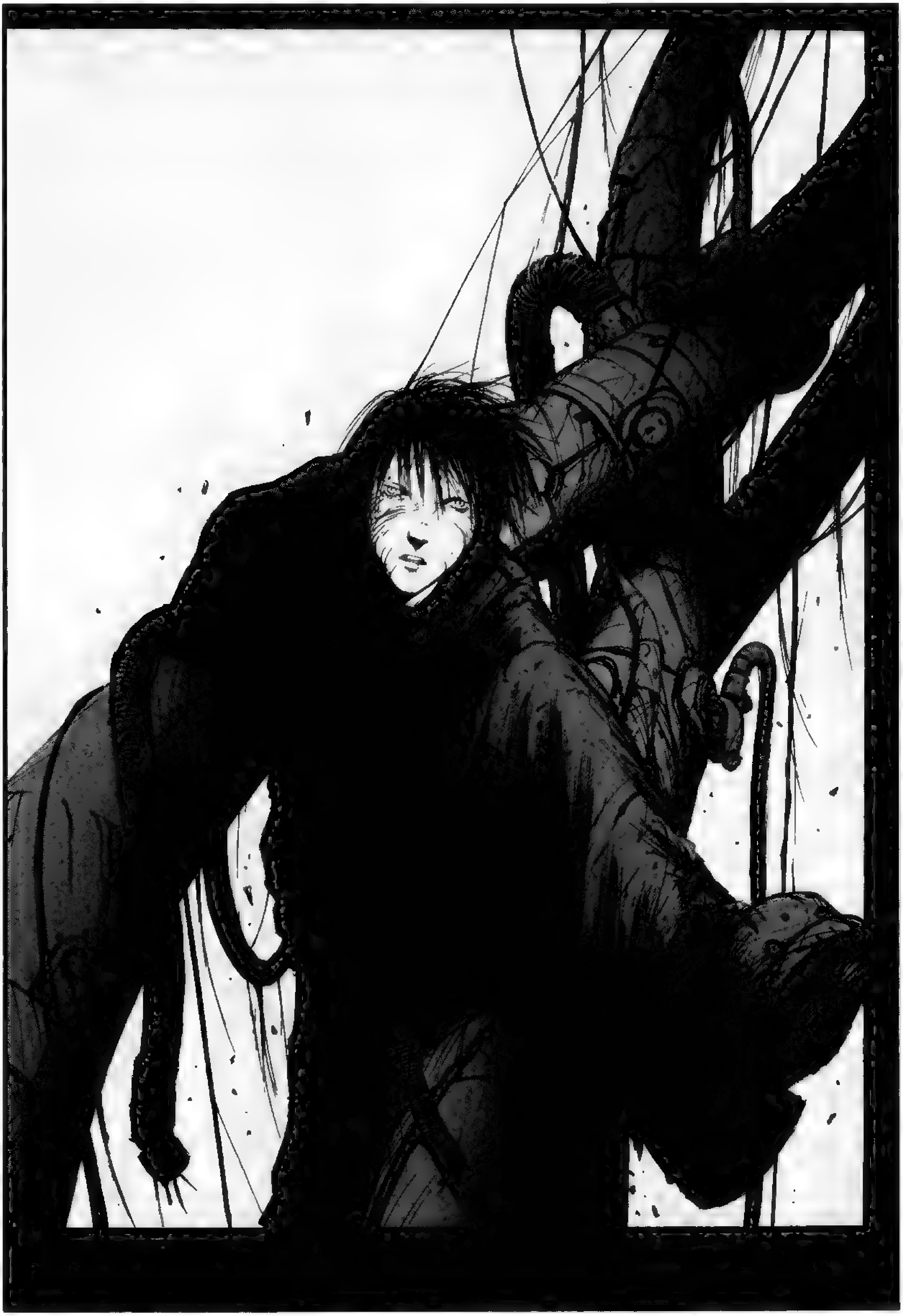
BOMPT
SPLT

WHUD

FWHOOO
ゴオ
CLNG

LOG.6@END

LOG.7 – The Builders



パラ
CRMB
ヒュウウウウ
HYUNNN
パラ
CRMB

ギギィ
GRIK CRIK
AAAAH!!
CRIK
ギィ

WAIT!!
DON'T GO AWAY!!
GLNK
I *KNEW* YOU WERE REAL!!

YAKI WANTS TO MEET YOU! THEY ALL WANT TO MEET YOU!
MY NAME IS KUMOI. I'VE BEEN TRAVELING WITH YAKI.
SHE SAID WE HAD TO. THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER CHOICE IN THE MATTER.
SAY! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
KILLY.
IT WAS HARD FOR US TO FIND A PLACE WHERE THE BUILDERS WOULDN'T COME...
THEY ALWAYS MESS UP OUR CULTIVATORS...
THEY'RE ESPECIALLY ACTIVE HERE IN THE DEVELOPING SECTOR...
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT YAKI SAYS.

KUMOI.
YEAH?
WHY ISN'T THERE A WALL OUT THERE?
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
AKIMA.
HANG ON! I CAN SHOW YOU FROM UP HERE.
I WAS BORN IN AKIMA, WAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE.
YOU CAN'T SEE IT BECAUSE IT'S SO FAR AWAY.

A LONG TIME WE'VE BEEN WAITING...
WAITING FOR *YOU!*
YAKI HAS LIVED IN AKIMA EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING.
I'M HOME!
SHE'S BEEN AROUND FOR A ***REAL*** LONG TIME...BUT NOW SHE'S STARTING TO BREAK DOWN.
YAKI IS GETTING WORSE EVERY DAY.
THAT'S WHY WE WENT ON THE JOURNEY...
THIS IS HER! YAKI!!

YAKI! THIS IS KILLY... THE HEALER!!
HE'S FINALLY HERE!!
I'M NOT A HEALER.
WHAT?
HEY! YOU'RE HUNGRY, I BET!

HERE... EAT ALL YOU WANT!
YAKI TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE THEM.
ポリ
POP
SHE CAN TEACH ANYTHING.
DO YOU EVER SEE LETTERS INSIDE YOUR EYES?
ME?
NO...I DON'T THINK SO.

KRISH
CLNK
GET AWAY !!
CLNK
BWHUMP

KA CHI
STOP!!
GO AWAY!!
SHIZZZ
SSHUNK
10111
11111
101——

キュウウウウン
WHINNNE
ZIII
COME WITH ME! THERE'S ANOTHER BUILDER I WANT YOU TO STOP!
THIS DEVICE. IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY SOMEONE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WORKS.
THAT BUILDER... YOU JUST STOPPED IT!
HOW ?!

TA TA TA TA
WHINNE
CSH RSH
THERE!
THAT GIANT MACHINE!

TA-TA-TA-TA-
CRUNK
CRUNK
WHIRR
IT'S GETTING CLOSER EVERY DAY.
IF WE DON'T STOP IT, IT'S GOING TO REBUILD THIS WHOLE AREA.

TA-TA-TA-TA
NO, NOT THAT. THE OTHER ONE.
CLCK

ギーン
ギイイイイ
WHIRR
ガガガ
TA-TA-TA-TA
110010111101
000111011111
1111—— ——
プシューーン
PSHUUUU
IT STOPPED!!

YAHOO!
THUMP
IT STOPPED!!
IT STOPPED!!

FWOOM
WHOOSH
SPLATCH

BA BLAM
TAGGA TAGGA

CRNCH
ZIII
CRMBL
CRSH

CRSSHH
GAAK!
KA-
CHNK
SQWEEZE
BLAM!

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

GRISH
GRISH
SHUUU

CRNCH
GRISH
HAFF
HAFF

DON'T WORRY. THE HEALER'S HERE.
......
DON'T LIE... THERE *IS* NO HEALER.
I KNEW...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I ALWAYS KNEW...

BLAME! 1 END

BLAME!

NEXT TIME---

AS KILLY CONTINUES TO ASCEND, FLOOR BY FLOOR, THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS MAZE OF METAL AND STONE, HE LEARNS MORE ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE AUTHORITY AND EXACTLY HOW FAR ITS POWER AND INFLUENCE REACHES. BUT ONLY WHEN HE MEETS A SCIENTIST BENT ON REVENGE AGAINST THE AUTHORITY'S BIO-ELECTRIC CORPORATION DOES KILLY BEGIN TO FULLY COMPREHEND THE ROLE OF THE AUTHORITY, AND HIS OWN ROLE IN ITS PRESERVATION. HOWEVER, WHY STILL MUST KILLY SEARCH FOR THE NET TERMINAL GENES IN THE FIRST PLACE?

In a future world rife with decay and destruction, Killy is a man of few words who packs one very powerful gun. He wanders an endless labyrinth of cyberdungeons filled with concrete and steel, fighting off cyborgs and other bizarre silicate creatures. Everyone is searching for the Net Terminal Genes, but no one is quite certain what kind of power they contain. The answer may lie hidden among the scattered human settlements of this vast and desolate future world.

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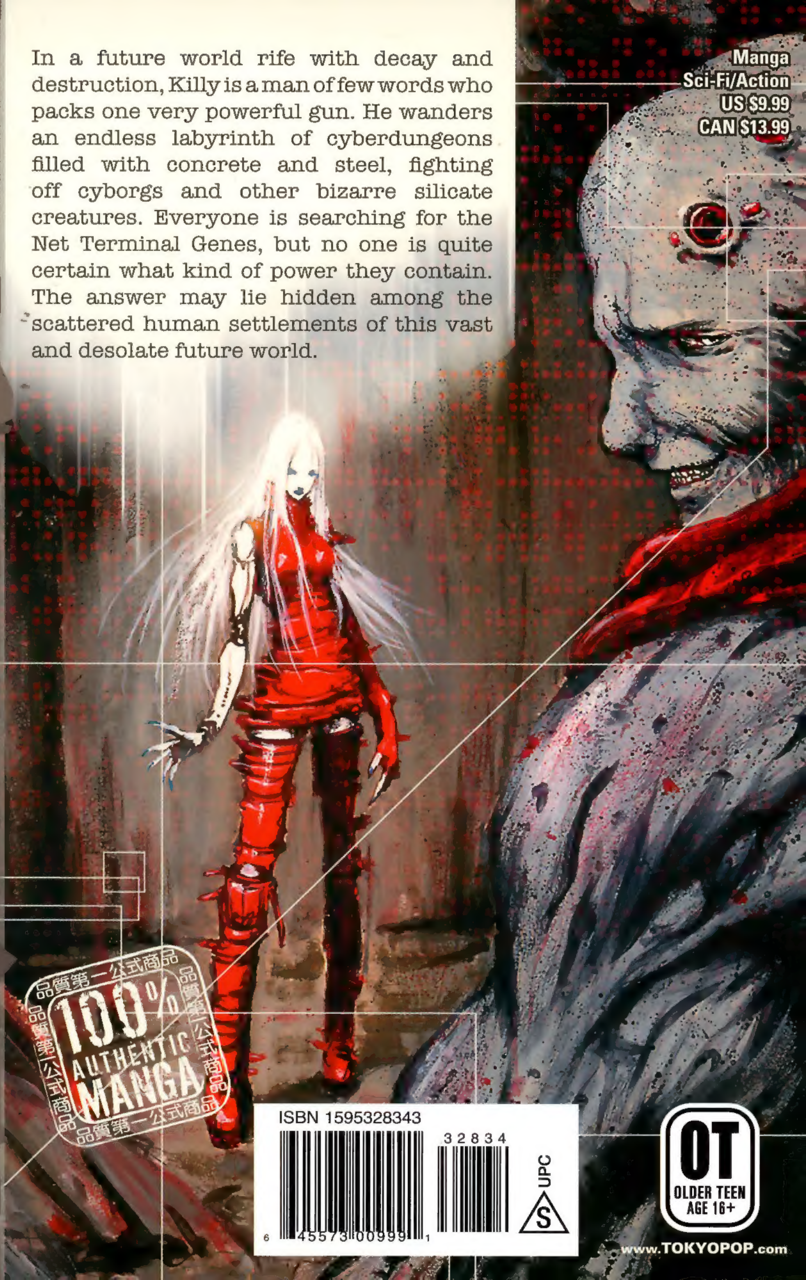

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